

Jordan Times

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Frei sees peace conference

AMMAN (AP) — The Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories will achieve its objective at an international peace conference, says Frei, a West Bank mayor, who was quoted Monday as saying, "The conference is the only way to achieve peace... and an active international conference to reach a just and comprehensive peace settlement in the Arab-Israeli conflict." Frei, mayor of Bethlehem, told the AP News Agency. He predicted such a conference would be held by the end of the year. "Leaders of Israel have no peace initiative but they have one project... maintaining the land and building new Jewish settlements in the West Bank," he said. "Israel has been claiming it wants peace... but it has been withdrawing from occupied lands, recognition of Palestinian self-determination and the Palestinian right to live like other people." Frei said the peace process would concentrate on Jordanian and Palestinian delegations who would "struggle for a negotiating table."

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Panel appeals to Rifai for Jerusalem action

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs (RCJA) has submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on Israel's current attempts to bring about a transfer of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem. The memorandum, submitted by RCJA Chairman Akram Zuaiter, said the Israeli attempts were posing grave threats to the future of the city of Jerusalem's Arab and Islamic identity. The Israeli occupation authorities have been trying to persuade the United States to move its embassy to Jerusalem ever since the 1967 occupation of Arab land in Palestine in a bid to lay emphasis on the city's status as the "capital" of the Holy City, the memorandum said. It added that Israel pursues its endeavor to bring about the transfer of other embassies to occupied Jerusalem in a bid to make its occupation of the Holy City seem legitimate. The memorandum said that the United States had so far refused to transfer its embassy to occupied Jerusalem and announced that it condemns Israel's occupation of Arab Jerusalem and does not recognize the de facto situation — a policy consistent with the policies of the Arab and Islamic nations. But the memorandum said that persistent reports indicate that Israel was intensifying its moves to bring about a transfer of the U.S. embassy to occupied Jerusalem. According to reports there had been attempts to purchase a land in occupied Jerusalem to build the American embassy, and Israel was currently exerting efforts at the U.S. State Department for purchase of the plot of land, the memorandum said. It said that the transfer of the U.S. embassy to occupied Jerusalem would constitute a serious threat to the Arab and Islamic identity of the Holy City. The commission appeals to the government to give due attention to the issue and to establish contact over the situation with the foreign ministers of Arab, Islamic and friendly states to foil Israel's attempts and ensure that the U.S. will continue to respect U.N. resolutions which call on all nations to refrain from transferring their embassies to Jerusalem, the memorandum said.

Arabs urge world effort to protect Palestinians

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Arab League, charged with organizing support for the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, met here Monday and issued an appeal to the international community, institutions, governments, parliaments and parties to intervene immediately to put an end to the horrible massacres committed by the Israeli occupation authorities. The appeal, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, also called for urgent international moves to protect the Palestinian people living in the occupied territories and exert all possible endeavours to end the Israeli occupation of Arab territories. A statement issued at the end of the meeting, which was called for by the representative of Palestine at the Arab League, praised the Palestinian people's steadfastness against Israeli measures and voiced the Arab World's solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and called for continued support for the 14-month-old uprising, Petra said. The committee reviewed progress of efforts undertaken to implement resolutions it adopted at a meeting held Jan. 12, the agency added. Following the meeting, Arab League Assistant Secretary-General for Palestinian Affairs



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Monday decorates His Majesty King Hussein with the highest Iraqi honour, the Al Rafidein Medal (Petra wirephoto)

Government seeks to address expected shortage of produce

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is studying ways to deal with an expected shortage of agricultural products in the local market in the wake of a frost wave that hit Jordan Valley farmlands last month. Acting Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said Monday. The minister, quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the frost heralded a temporary halt in agricultural production, thus adversely affecting the market and local consumers and leading to increases in prices of agricultural products and a temporary halt of exports. Hmoud expressed hope that the committees would finalize their reports within two weeks before referring the matter to the Council of Ministers to decide on the amounts of compensation to farmers. In reply to a question by Petra, the minister said that local insurance companies had so far declined to insure agricultural production due to risks entailed in the process. But, he said, representatives of concerned sectors have provided the Ministry of Agriculture with a tentative formula which could help introduce some kind of agricultural insurance. The plan has now been referred to the Ministry of Planning for studies, the minister said. The Council of Ministers, Hmoud added, is giving this subject priority, considering the severe weather conditions that affected the country as a natural disaster that warrants compensation to affected farmers. The minister's statements followed reports in the local press that damages in the Jordan Valley were estimated at JD 25 million, and lands owned by 1,000 farmers in the region had sustained severe damage.

Israelis use new anti-uprising tactics

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police Monday soaked Palestinian protesters with green dye shot from water cannons with enough force to shatter windows along Arab Jerusalem's main shopping street. The cannon fired bursts of dyed water to mark suspects for arrest during the clashes in Arab Jerusalem. Witnesses quoted by Reuters said two policemen were slightly injured when protesters poured into Salaheddin street and began hurling stones and bricks in the worst protests in the city for weeks. The protesters burned tyres, chanted nationalist slogans and smashed car windows before police dispersed them by firing rubber bullets, tear-gas and the water cannon. The abandoned street was filled with rocks and glass shards and buildings were stained with the green-dyed water. There were no arrests. Palestinians said the force of the water cannon broke shop windows. At a second-floor health clinic, water smashed windows and overturned the furniture inside. "The police want problems. Why? Look at what they did. Will this help them?" asked a doctor at the clinic. In the occupied Gaza Strip, merchants staged a spontaneous commercial strike, coinciding with a call by underground Palestinian leaders for a day of confrontation in protest at the killing of demonstrators. Troops shot dead three protesters and wounded more than 50 in weekend clashes in the Gaza Strip, casting doubt on Israeli claims that a clampdown was bringing the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising under control. On Monday, troops shot and wounded three protesters in the Gaza Strip including a 15-year-old girl, hospital officials said. The army said two Palestinian were wounded by rubber bullets in the West Bank towns of Tul-karem and Jenin.

Benjedid, Hassan II open talks at Ifrane

FEZ, Morocco (R) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and King Hassan II began talks at Ifrane in the Moroccan monarch's mountain resort Monday to seal their reconciliation. The two leaders embraced when Benjedid arrived at Fez airport to start a three-day visit, the first by an Algerian president in 17 years. Officials said the open-ended agenda would include the Western Sahara conflict, African and Arab affairs and cooperation. The talks were being held in the secluded royal palace at Ifrane in the middle Atlas mountains. The Moroccan daily L'Opinion published by the opposition Istiglal Party said it hoped the Western Sahara conflict would now be resolved to vindicate Moroccan claims to the disputed territory. In the daily Le Matin, senior Minister of State Ahmad Ahooui compared the reconciliation to the Franco-German embrace between Charles de Gaulle and Konrad Adenauer 25 years ago. He said that meeting signalled détente, entente and cooperation. Benjedid's visit comes a week before a five-state Maghreb summit in Marrakech. It is due to discuss a Maghreb union and plans to form an economic bloc comprising Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The Algerian daily Al Moudjahid said the visit opened up prospects for intensive cooperation, especially in the economic field. The official Algerian news agency APS said one of the first tangible results would be an agreement to set up a joint company to build a pipeline which would carry Algerian natural gas across Morocco to Spain.

Iraq presents its highest honour to Al Hussein King returns after talks in Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman Monday following a two-day visit to Baghdad and talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Arab issues, the Gulf situation and bilateral relations.

The talks between the two leaders covered Iraqi-Iranian negotiations on the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 to bring about peace and obstacles posed by Iran that are impeding a lasting solution, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The two leaders discussed the Palestine question and the latest developments, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and means of helping the Palestinians regain their rights and their usurped land. During the visit, President Hussein presented the King with the Al Rafidein Medal, the highest Iraqi decoration, in recognition of his national role and honourable stand in support of the Arab Nation and his support for Iraq in its just struggle to defend the Arab Nation's soil. The president presented the medal to the King during a lunch he hosted in Baghdad and attended by the Jordanian delegation and senior Iraqi officials. An Iraqi presidential decree said the medal was awarded to His Majesty in recognition and appreciation of his staunch support for Iraq during the war with Iran. It recalled that the King was one of the brave men who came forward and announced that he would be the first volunteer to fight alongside Iraq in the battle. The decree said the King had visited the battlefield many times and during one of those visits he fired a salvo of artillery fire against Iranian positions. President Hussein remarked at the time that Jordan had thus officially and practically entered the war, the decree said. It said that the King insisted that the footage of the firing be broadcast on television as an open reaffirmation of Jordan's total solidarity with Iraq. The decree said His Majesty

would be the first volunteer to fight alongside Iraq in the battle. The decree said the King had visited the battlefield many times and during one of those visits he fired a salvo of artillery fire against Iranian positions. President Hussein remarked at the time that Jordan had thus officially and practically entered the war, the decree said. It said that the King insisted that the footage of the firing be broadcast on television as an open reaffirmation of Jordan's total solidarity with Iraq. The decree said His Majesty

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Iraqi leader thanks Jordanian committee

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Monday expressed gratitude and appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Struggle of the Iraqi People against Iranian aggression. During a meeting with the committee head and members here Monday, President Hussein said he highly valued the national and sincere position Jordan adopted in support of Iraq. He also lauded all forms of aid Iraq received from other Arab brothers. The meeting was attended by Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nassif Jassem.

PLO refutes Israel's new 'terrorism' claim

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Monday five commandos killed trying to infiltrate Israel were on a military mission and did not violate the group's renunciation of terrorism. "It was a military operation. It was a response to Israeli terrorism and the aim was to attack Israeli soldiers," a PLO official said in Tunis. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens seized on the incident, contending that it showed the PLO had violated the conditions for dialogue with the United States. Arens said the commandos planned to attack "civilians" but gave no evidence for this. "Two days ago, we had an example of a terrorist act by a branch of the PLO," Arens said in a speech before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations. "I resume that in Washington, they also noticed what happened, but to the extent that somebody there may not have noticed, we will draw his attention to it," Arens added on Israel Radio after the speech. The PLO official in Tunis noted that in the first round of PLO-U.S. talks in Tunis in December the group reserved the right to attack military targets in Israel. The United States has not given its own definition of "terrorism." The fighters, members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), were killed Sunday in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon. The PFLP is part of the PLO but its force is outside the control of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who made the dialogue with the United States possible in December by renouncing terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist. The PFLP has criticised some of Arafat's diplomatic moves, but the PLO chairman continues to enjoy the full support of the PLO Executive Committee, which includes a PFLP representative. A joint PFLP-PLF statement issued Sunday said that other members of the group escaped after inflicting "heavy losses in the enemy's ranks... ambulances were sent rushing to the site to transfer the Israeli casualties." Sunday's incident was the first penetration attempt across Israel's northern border by a major PLO faction since Arafat's

U.N. address and subsequent statements in December.

The chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, Seymour Reich, said he doubted the Bush administration would see the weekend attack as grounds to break off the dialogue.

Israeli Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Dan Shomron said in January that the mainstream Fatah group of the PLO had not attacked Israel's northern border since the Palestine National Council implicitly recognised Israel in November.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, meanwhile, said Israel would not succumb to outside pressure to accept the formation of a Palestinian state.

"There will never be a Palestinian state," Shamir said in a televised speech Sunday night. "There is no power on earth that can force us to accept it. The government of Israel is not susceptible to pressure of any kind."

Shamir said he was responding to "those who believe that all the Palestinians have to do is convince the Americans to pressure us, and we will obey their commands..."

Shevardnadze fails in last-ditch Afghan bid

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's last-ditch efforts to prevent a bloody finale to the Afghanistan conflict ended in apparent failure Monday as the last Soviet troops prepared to leave Kabul. Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto suggested the Soviet effort to forge an Afghan peace that included the Kabul government was dead. "How much more effort can they go on putting in?" she said in an interview only hours after Shevardnadze left Pakistan after his unsuccessful talks on the issue. "With only nine days left (before the last Soviet troops leave Afghanistan) one cannot see how much more effort they can make," she said. Bhutto said it was up to a rebel Mujahadeen consultative council, or "shura," set for Feb. 10 to form an interim government and allow reconstruction efforts to begin after a nine-year war in which over one million people may have died. "We are anxious that a political settlement be reached through the consultative shura," she said. Shevardnadze, at a news conference just before he left for home, stressed Moscow's unchanged position that the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) be allowed to attend the shura and be a part of any interim government. Bhutto said who was to attend the shura was for the Mujahadeen to decide. They have refused repeatedly to entertain the idea of PDPA participation. "It's their country. They have fought the war. They have given their lives in this struggle," she said. Bhutto suggested she did not take seriously statements by President Najibullah in Kabul that the government would win a war that continued after Feb. 15, the deadline set in Geneva accords for the departure of the last Soviet soldier. "They must be expected to make the statements they do," she said. "They are not exactly in a happy position." Shevardnadze bearded home from Pakistan after plans for a meeting with Afghan rebel leaders collapsed. Rebel officials said the meeting

fell through because Shevardnadze refused to announce Moscow would withdraw its support for the PDPA.

But Shevardnadze would not confirm he had sought such a meeting, saying he would not have refused one, but none had been requested and, anyway, he did not have the time.

The Mujahadeen rebels have shown no interest in a peace deal, believing they will capture Kabul and other cities quickly once the last Soviet soldier has gone home.

Diplomats say only a halt to the supply of mainly U.S. arms channelled through Pakistan could pressure the Mujahadeen into seeking a settlement with the Kabul government.

The Soviet news agency TASS said in Moscow more than 30,000 troops had left Afghanistan in the last stage of the withdrawal.

A vast column of soldiers crossed the border into the Soviet town of Termez Monday and in the west two more convoys were heading towards the Soviet town of Kushka.

The rebels have been holding their fire as columns of Soviet troops leave the country.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

Egypt, Israel debate value of Taba buildings

CAIRO (R) — Egypt and Israel Monday debated the value of Israeli-built facilities at Taba, held by the Zionist state but awarded to Egypt by international arbitrators. Disputes over compensation for a hotel and tourist village and over Israeli access have delayed Israel's pullout from the area. Egypt's chief negotiator, Tourism Minister Fouad Sultan, said after Monday's negotiating session in Cairo that he objected to parts of an Israeli report on the value of the Taba buildings.

U.N. resumes relief to S. Sudan

NAIROBI (R) — A U.N. food relief agency said Monday it had sent its first truck heavy of food to the starving people of southern Sudan, since 11 of its drivers were killed in a rebel attack last September. The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) said it estimated that 530,000 Sudanese need food aid this year. It said it had sent 16 trucks with 200 tonnes of maize from Uganda into southern Sudan, where fighting between government soldiers and rebels has left hundreds of thousands of people without enough food.

Mubarak to visit UAE, Oman

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak will visit the United Arab Emirates and Oman later this month for talks on Arab and international issues, the Middle East News Agency reported Monday. The agency said that Mubarak would visit the United Arab Emirates on his way to Japan where he will attend the funeral of Japan's Emperor Hirohito. It said the Egyptian president would stop in Oman on his way back from Tokyo. MENA did not specify a date for either trip. The emperor's funeral is Feb. 24.

Strosser settles into Brazil exile

ITUMBARA, Brazil (R) — Former Paraguayan strongman Alfredo Stroessner, deposed last week in a bloody coup, settled into exile in Brazil Monday and was staying in a mansion owned by the state hydroelectric firm. Stroessner and his family arrived in the country in a Paraguayan Air Force plane Sunday and was flown by the Brazilian Air Force to Itumbara, central Brazil, a Foreign Ministry official said. The new Paraguayan government meanwhile called presidential and congressional elections for May 1.

Aziz heads for U.N. for Gulf peace talks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz flew to New York Monday for talks with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on efforts to negotiate permanent peace in the Gulf, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Aziz sent a letter to Perez de Cuellar last week saying Iraq was ready to resume direct peace negotiations with Iran, adjourned for almost three months.

He told INA Jan. 25 that Iran's refusal to agree to the dredging of the disputed Shatt al Arab border waterway was "clear-cut evidence of its ill-intentions."

Iraq says top priority should be given to the withdrawal of Iraqi troops it says still occupy 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory following last August's ceasefire in the eight-year-long war.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein told U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson last week that Iraq agreed to a U.N. proposal to form a joint military commission with Iran to strengthen the ceasefire.

Iraq, repeating its demand for

Iran would continue to export its revolution, but not by force, and noted that improved relations with the United States were possible.

"We have a concept and we are going to continue the policy to export the revolution. But this doesn't mean we're going to export the revolution with a gun," he told a news conference.

He said better relations with the United States were possible only if the Americans change their hostile stance towards the revolution.

"With consultation with the leadership of the Islamic republic this shall become evident in the future," Velayati said.

"Except for the Palestine-occupying regime and the racist South African regime, and precluding American sabotage, we desire good relations with other countries of the world," he said.

Iraq has been restoring relations with Western countries and its Gulf neighbours in a new open-door policy aimed at ending a decade of self-imposed isolation.

Iraq to withdraw from its territory, also said Monday face-to-face peace talks with Iraq would resume soon.

"Direct dialogue for the full implementation of the Resolution (598) will begin soon, but it will lead nowhere if Iraq... doesn't withdraw," Tehran Radio quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as telling a Tehran news conference.

The radio report did not say if Velayati gave a date or venue for the talks.

Velayati is due to fly to New York to meet Perez de Cuellar and attend a Security Council session extending the mandate of the U.N. ceasefire monitoring force. Reports also indicated that he and Aziz could meet.

Export of revolution

Velayati also said Monday that

Dumas ends Iran visit after talks on disputes

NICOSIA (AP) — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left Tehran Monday after a two-day visit in which an Iranian leader said the two countries agreed to "forgive and forget" their differences despite bitter criticism of France in Iran's media.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency reported that Dumas said before flying to Kuwait that his talks with Iranian leaders had been "very fruitful."

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying the discussions had covered ways of settling disputes between the two countries and ending strains in relations.

He did not elaborate. But Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a Tehran news con-

ference shortly before Dumas left that France and Iran had agreed "to forget the past and think of expanding mutual ties in the future."

IRNA quoted Dumas as saying that France and Iran had signed agreements on auto manufacturing, oil and the production of subway and railroad equipment.

France's Peugeot automaker last month signed an agreement with Iran's Khodro Company to assemble Peugeot cars.

IRNA said officials of the Peugeot and Renault companies also said they were ready to cooperate with the Iran's state-run Saipa Auto Manufacturer, which assembles Renaults.

The French were involved in



Roland Dumas

the early stages of plans to build a subway system in Tehran. The scheme was shelved because of the war with Iraq, but revived in 1986.

Algeria to move away from socialism, may introduce multi-party system

ALGIERS (AP) — President Chadli Benjedid has proposed a new national constitution, dropping references to socialism and opening the door to a multi-party system with protections for civil liberties.

Benjedid's office issued the draft constitution this week, and said it would be submitted to a referendum on Feb. 23. This country of 25 million people has a struggling economy, straitjacketed by large government enterprises and dependent on oil and gas exports in an era of sinking prices.

Benjedid, 59, has been taking quiet steps for years to move Algeria away from orthodox socialism towards a free-market economy, but has faced determined resistance within the ruling party and the government bureaucracy.

The process was accelerated after widespread rioting last October, with most anger focused on buildings representing the party and the government. Officials said 176 people died in several days of fighting.

The proposed document would supersede the 1976 constitution drawn up under Houari Boumedienne, president from 1965-78. Boumedienne established a Marxist system on the Soviet model, with a politburo controlling a ruling party that has a monopoly on political and economic power.

Under the new constitution, the army would no longer be given a role in "the development of the country and the moulding of socialism." Its role would be

restricted to defending the "national independence, the unity and territorial integrity of the country."

Islam would remain the state religion and Arabic the official language of Algeria.

The new text recognises the right to strike, within some limits, and says "the right to create associations of a political character is recognised," but does not explicitly authorise competing parties. Until now, the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) has been the only legal political organisation.

Also dropped would be a declaration in the article I of the current constitution that "the Algerian state is socialist." The president's oath of office would no longer declare respect for "the irreversible character of the choice for socialism." The new document does not even once use the word "socialism."

A first round of constitutional reform, eliminating the party's direct control over the government, was approved by 92 per cent of the voters in a referendum last Nov. 5.

Benjedid, running unopposed as the FLN candidate, was then re-elected to a third five-year term last Dec. 22.

The new constitution would guarantee the right to private property and to inheritance, as well as freedoms of conscience, opinion, expression, association, assembly and intellectual creation.

A statement issued by the president's office when the text was made public said the new docu-

ment would provide "complete, unbreakable guarantees of the exercise of individual and collective liberties."

In recent months, groups and associations have been holding rallies, making declarations and otherwise pushing the boundaries of what previously had been forbidden.

There was no public input into the new draft constitution, though. It was prepared in secret by Benjedid's legal experts and issued with no advance warning. At the same time, a voting date was set less than three weeks away.

One of those involved in the drafting, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was "impossible to adopt reforms which reject socialism as a political system and simultaneously endorse socialism as a state philosophy."

Benjedid himself recently criticised the current constitution as a "mixture of ideology, philosophy and law... which must be replaced by a state of law concerned exclusively with the relations between the state and society."

The official agency APS said in a commentary that the draft was "a jewel" which satisfies "all the aspirations" of the Algerian people.

"Without erecting pragmatism into a dogma, the new constitution is based on universal principles which are deeply anchored in the people and which make man the centre of the system, while facilitating future ideological cohabitations," APS said.



Raging protests belie Israeli claim

PALESTINIAN children blockade the entrance to a village in the occupied West Bank to prevent Israeli soldiers from entering the area. Despite tough measures and new tactics adopted by the occupation authorities, the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising continues unabated, discounting Israeli claims that the revolt is showing signs of waning.

Kuwait seeks to resolve border dispute with Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait hopes a visit by its prime minister to Baghdad will help to settle a long-standing border row, diplomats said.

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the highest-ranking Kuwaiti to go to Iraq since the Gulf war ceasefire last August, Monday began a three-day visit to Baghdad, Kuwait Radio reported.

In the 1970s, Iraq laid claim to large areas of northern Kuwait, including the Gulf islands of Warba and Bubiyan, and Kuwait newspapers said the dispute should now be resolved.

"The time has come to end the

issue of drawing the border between Kuwait and Iraq, especially concerning the islands of Warba and Bubiyan," wrote Al Anbasa. "A resolution of this issue has dragged on for a long time without reason."

Iraqi officials have predicted that the border issue can be quickly resolved, now that fighting has ended in the eight-year war.

The Kuwait press, which often reflects government thinking, said defining the border would open up a new era of cooperation and economic integration.

Al Anbasa said it was wrong to believe that the lack of a border agreement meant that Baghdad had ambitions on Kuwaiti territory.

Sheikh Saad was also expected to discuss the supply of Iraqi fresh water to Kuwait and of Kuwaiti electricity to Iraq, the diplomats said.

The daily Al Watan reported Monday that Iraq had proposed that its rail network should be extended to Kuwait to allow freight movements.

In Baghdad, the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra praised Sheikh Saad's visit.

"It will seriously contribute to strengthening the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries," the paper said.

Baker not opposed to Soviet role

NEW YORK (R) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has said he does not oppose Soviet participation in an international Middle East peace conference, but that the Soviets should show they are committed to a "constructive" role.

"One way would be to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel, to continue to permit greater emigration and to stop supporting states that support terrorism, such as Libya," Baker told Time magazine in an interview published Sunday.

Baker said he saw no reason the Bush administration would depart from the Reagan administration's policy towards a peace conference, which included what he described as two important

provisos — to lead towards direct negotiations between the parties and it be properly structured.

"I don't see any reason why we would depart from the policy with those provisos," he said. "We don't categorically oppose a Soviet role."

Baker said that while the United States "is and can be the most influential player" in the Middle East, "it is important that we not permit the perception to develop that we can deliver peace, that we can deliver Israeli concessions."

"If there is going to be a lasting peace, it will be the result of direct negotiations between the parties, not something mandated or delivered by anybody from the outside, including the U.S.," Baker said.

The secretary also said he was not opposed to pre-emptive strikes against "terrorists," adding: "I have absolutely no problem with that philosophically. Sometimes such strikes are not only justified but required."

Asked if Washington should support Mikhail Gorbachev's reform efforts in the Soviet Union, Baker replied he did not believe the Soviet leader's success depended on U.S. policy.

"I don't think success or failure depends on what we do," Baker said. "We must continue to approach this relationship with prudence, realism, and to be reserved not go overboard here just because we see a change."

Jailed Briton loyal to Palestinian cause

LONDON (R) — A Briton serving a life sentence for the killing of three Israelis in Cyprus remains devoted to the Palestinian cause and convinced what he did was right, the Observer newspaper said Sunday.

In an interview from his prison cell in Nicosia, Ian Davison, 31, said he was convinced the three slain Israelis were not the innocent tourists Israel claimed they were but were members of Israel's Mossad secret service, the Observer said.

Davison and two Arabs were convicted of murder in December 1985 for killing the Israelis on a yacht in Cyprus' Larnaca harbour that September.

The Briton would not comment on the shootings except to say "we were working to liberate Palestinians," the newspaper said.

"I'm convinced what we did was right," he was quoted as saying. "It was a military operation and I had a duty to perform."

The Observer said Davison said his involvement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) began after he saw television coverage of the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon while travelling in the United States.

Describing himself as an international socialist, Davison said to be enlisted in the PLO in 1983 and was sent to fight Palestinian dissidents fighting for control of the Lebanese city of Tripoli in 1983, the Observer said.

He would not comment on his subsequent activities, the newspaper said.

Davison has burned his British passport, it said, quoting him as saying: "I am a Palestinian and I want to travel on a Palestinian passport."

A life sentence in Cyprus carries a 20-year prison term but can be halved for good behaviour, as in Davison's case, the Observer said. It was commuted further last February when George Vassiliou became president and has four and half years left to serve, but Davison is hoping for a pardon to mark the forthcoming visit of PLO leader Yasser Arafat to Cyprus, the newspaper said.

He was quoted as saying he believed he would be a target of Mossad and did not plan to return to Britain.

"I read so much about the violence going on (in England)... and I couldn't picture myself lining up a job from here," he was quoted as saying. "Imagine the application form: 'Address: Nicosia central prison, occupation: terrorist'."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Orthodox Jew bomb suspects held

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police arrested Sunday 10 ultra-orthodox Jews suspected of a series of attempted bombings and arson attacks against secular Jews, officials said. Among the approximately one dozen assaults attributed to the group was placing of bombs along the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway Dec. 31, said Tel Aviv police commander Yigal Marcus, who spoke on Israel Radio. They are also suspected of planting five explosive devices near the newsstands that sold secular newspapers in the ultra-orthodox Tel Aviv suburb of B'Nai Brak last August, said Motti Avidan, head of the intelligence unit of Tel Aviv police. Avidan said the group has suspected of planting five incendiary bombs in B'Nai Brak in December. "The equipment they had was taken from the army," he said on Israel Television. "Either they had an accomplice, or the equipment was stolen."

Spain lifts Iran, Iraq arms sales ban

MADRID (AP) — The Spanish government lifted a ban on weapons sales to Iran and Iraq after both countries reached a cease-fire agreement, according to a Spanish daily newspaper. The independent daily El Pais, citing unidentified official sources, said Sunday the government of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez agreed in a Friday cabinet meeting to lift the ban. Iran and Iraq suspended their eight-year-old war last summer. El Pais said that in spite of the ban, imposed a few months after fighting broke out between the Gulf countries in September 1980, Spanish private and state-owned companies continued selling arms to both countries until 1986.

Tehran busts drug ring

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian authorities busted a drug smuggling ring in Tehran and arrested 50 pushers, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Sunday. A spokesman for the Komitehs, task forces that are leading the current drugs crackdown in Iran, told the agency that 125 kilograms of various narcotics were seized from the pushers' hide-out. The spokesman told the agency, monitored in Nicosia, that Komitehs also had seized 114 kilograms of opium over the past two days and arrested six other "death merchants" in the provinces of Bushehr in the south and Mazandaran in the north. A new narcotics law went into effect last month carrying mandatory death sentences to carriers or smugglers of even few amounts of drugs. In the western town of Bakhtaran, the authorities smashed seven drug trafficking gangs and rounded up 97 smugglers a few days ago, IRNA reported.

Demjanjuk appeal set for Nov. 1

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's supreme court Sunday rescheduled the appeal of convicted Nazi war criminal John Demjanjuk for Nov. 1, the ITIM news agency said. Demjanjuk, a retired auto worker from Ohio in the United States, was sentenced to death last year for crimes he allegedly committed during World War II. He was accused of being "Ivan the terrible," a guard who terrorised and killed hundreds of thousands of people at the Treblinka camp in German-occupied Poland, but he says he is a victim of misidentification. His appeal, originally scheduled to start last December, was postponed for six months following the suicide of one of his Israeli defence attorneys last November. The court agreed Sunday to a further extension, following a request by his defence council, Yoram Sheftel. Sheftel said he has not yet found an Israeli partner willing to replace the late Dov Eitan.

British health minister to visit Riyadh

NICOSIA (R) — British Health Minister David Mellor will start a four-day visit to Saudi Arabia Feb. 10, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Monday. Mellor was criticised in Israel and praised in Arab countries last year when, as a Foreign Office junior minister, he upbraided an Israeli officer in the occupied Gaza Strip for his handling of a Palestinian demonstration. SPA said Mellor would hold talks with Saudi Health Minister Faisal Ibn Abdul Aziz Al Hajjailan and visit health centres in Riyadh and Jeddah.

Aime holds talks in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — U.N. envoy Jean-Claude Aime held talks with Lebanese leaders in Beirut Monday on the U.N. peace-keeping force in South Lebanon. Aime declined to talk to journalists after meeting acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, head of the civilian government, but official sources said they discussed last month's Security Council decision to extend the force's mandate. The sources said Aime was also due to meet General Michel Aoun, head of the rival military cabinet, and other officials during his visit.

Tias briefs troops in Lebanon

DAMASCUS (R) — Defence Minister Mustafa Tias visited Syrian troops stationed in Lebanon and assured them of Syria's commitment to the unity of the country, the Syria press reported Monday. Official newspapers said Major-General Tias briefed the soldiers during Sunday's visit on Syria's role in "defending Lebanon's Arab identity and the Palestinian cause." They said Tias "affirmed Syria's continued readiness to preserve Lebanon's unity and to extend all support and help to achieve national salvation and overcome the differences."

U.S., Greece resume bases talks

ATHENS (AP) — Greek and American officials Monday started another round of talks on the future of four U.S. military bases here. The officials declined to comment on the start of the four-day talks, the 14th since negotiations got under way in late 1987. Little progress has been made in the ongoing negotiations and officials were not expected to make much headway in this week's discussions. It was the second meeting between the negotiators since a five-year operating agreement for the installations expired on Dec. 20. Under the terms of the old accord, the United States has 17 months to reach a new agreement or dismantle the bases. Government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said at the end of last month's talks that negotiators had gotten no further than the "preamble" stage of a new accord and that a "disagreement of views continues to be observable."

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel. 7211-19	17:17 Maghreb 18:36 'Isha
PROGRAMME ONE 15:30 Koran 15:40 Programme review 15:45 Children programmes 17:00 Educational programme 17:30 Religious programme 18:00 News summary in Arabic 18:05 Programme on world news 18:20 Programme on children 19:10 Agricultural programme 19:45 Programme review 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:30 Programme review 21:50 Local programme 22:30 Arabic programme 23:00 News summary in Arabic	CHURCHES Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 63785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasanta Church Tel. 623366 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151. Armenian International Church Tel. 653336. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295. Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822505. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.
PROGRAMME TWO 19:00 La Belle Anglaise 19:00 News in French 19:15 French varieties 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Who's the Boss 21:10 Sophie and Constance 22:00 News in English 22:30 Hunt	WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. A gradual increase in temperature will occur and some clouds appear on medium and high altitudes. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba,
PRAYER TIMES 05:04 Fajr 06:22 (Sunrise) Duha 11:58 Dhuhri 14:51 'Asr	USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Munir Wardah 783352 Dr. Khalidoun Khou 826919 Dr. Subell Tamous 894964 Dr. Jamil Maragheh 776049 Firas pharmacy 661912 Firdous pharmacy 778336 Al Asena pharmacy 637053 Nairokh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644945 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
IRBID: Dr. Mohammad Al Sharara (—) Al Sharara pharmacy 985238. ZARQA: Dr. Abdul Latif Al Sharbani (—) Khalifeh pharmacy 985417.	EMERGENCIES Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate 630341 Rescue 622090/93 Fire Brigade 775127 Blood Bank 843402 Traffic Police 656390/91. Public Security Department 656000 / 685111. Hotel Complaints 605800. Price Complaints 661176 Water and Sewerage 897467 Complaints 787111 Amman Municipality 787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12.
OVERSEAS CALLS Central Amman Telephone 17 Repairs 623101 Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Water Authority 680100 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615 Electric Power 636381 RJ Flight Information 06-53200 Queens Alia Intl. Airport 06-52000	HOSPITALS AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/33 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Akiled Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 642362 Mathas, J. Amman 626140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 691131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Mushar Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajirah 771101/3 Al-Basheir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26 Army, Marka 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 062240/50
AMAL Hospital 674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)883323 Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071 The Sina Hospital (09)96732 IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (02)275558 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)347100 AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111	MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in lbs per kg. Apple 500 / 450 Banana 350 / 300 Banana (Mukannmar) 300 / 250 Beans 650 / 550 Broad beans 800 / 700 Cabbage 170 / 140 Carrots 240 / 200 Cauliflower 220 / 170 Dates 540 / 440 Cucumbers 600 / 500 Eggplant 240 / 180 Garlic 250 / 200 Grapefruit 230 / 170 Lemon 260 / 200 Lettuce (per one) 140 / 100

Marrow (large) 350 / 300 Marrow (small) 300 / 400 Orange (Shammouti) 400 / 300 Orange (local) 260 / 220 Onion (dry) 230 / 180 Onion (green) 240 / 200 Pepper (hot) 640 / 580 Pepper (sweet) 520 / 460 Potato 250 / 200 Spinach 150 / 100 Mandarin 370 / 300 Tomatoes 210 / 140	Other Flights (Terminal 2) 09:30 Cairo (MS) 10:30 Kuwait (KU) 11:10 Baghdad (IA) 12:15 Tripoli (LP) 12:30 Damascus (DA) 15:45 Rome (AZ) 17:00 Beirut (ME) 19:45 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 06:25 London, Cairo (BA)	FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 04:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 08:55 Baghdad (RJ) 09:10 Amman (RJ) 09:15 Jeddah (RJ) 09:30 Cairo (RJ) 09:55 Muscat, Dubai (RJ) 10:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 11:30 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ) 12:30 London, Moscow (BA) 12:30 Miami, New York (RJ) 18:30 Athens, Istanbul (RJ)	DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 06:25 Amman (RJ) 11:10 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:45 Istanbul, Athens (RJ) 11:45 Frankfurt, Rome (LH) 12:00 Geneva, London (BA) 12:15 Paris (RJ) 15:40 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ) 16:30 Larnaca (SR) 18:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ) 21:30 Damascus (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2) 10:30 Cairo (MS) 11:30 Kuwait (KU) 12:15 Baghdad (IA) 12:30 Tripoli (LP) 12:30 Damascus (DA) 15:45 Rome (AZ) 17:00 Beirut (ME) 19:45 Zurich, Larnaca (SR) 06:25 London, Cairo (BA)
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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CROWN PRINCE SENDS CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday delegated the governor of Irbid to convey condolences to the Khreis family on the death of the late Ali Ahmad Khreis. (Petra).

KHASAWNEH RECEIVES SPANISH ENVOY: Information Minister Dr. Ahmad al-Khasawneh Monday discussed with Spanish Ambassador in Amman Ramon Armengod bilateral relations particularly in the field of information. (Petra).

DM 4.4M, GERMAN LOAN: The Cabinet has approved a DM 4.4 million loan agreement between Jordan and the Federal Republic of Germany. The loan will be used to fund the Shideib phosphate project. (Petra).

JORDANIAN EXPORTS, IMPORTS: Jordan's exports of phosphates, fertilisers and potash during the past year amounted to 10,952,973 tonnes while the imports reached 9,143,165 tonnes. The imported goods consisted mostly of rice, sugar, tea, flour, coffee, cars, iron, tyres, vegetable oils, wood and construction materials. (Petra).

COURT FINES SUPPLY LAW VIOLATOR: The military court has fined Ali Abdul Rahman Hassan Salim for violating supply laws and manipulating prices of food stuffs. The military governor then approved the military court's decision which fined Salim for JD 50 and a 100-day jail if he fails to pay the fine. (Petra).

SOVIET ATTACHE AT GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY: The director general of the Royal Jordanian Geographic Society (RJGS) has received a first draft of an agreement between the Sojuzkarta Foundation for maps and the RJGS related to the production of maps in various forms and sizes. The draft was delivered by the Soviet commercial attaché in Amman. During the meeting, the two parties discussed means of cooperation between the two countries. (Petra).

PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR JORDAN TIMES: Post Office and Postal Service Corporation official Nayef Tarawneh has assumed his new post as director general of public relations at the Jordan Press Foundation, Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times. This follows a secondment decision by the Cabinet. (J.T.).

MAJALI PRAISES LATTA'S EFFORTS: University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday received British Council Director David Latta at the end of his duty in Jordan. During the meeting, Dr. Majali praised the efforts Latta exerted to consolidate scientific and cultural relations between the university and the various British educational institutes. (J.T.).

INVESTMENT SEMINAR: The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce is currently holding contacts with concerned authorities in India to pave the way for a Jordanian-Indian investment seminar to be held in Amman during 1989.

King returns from Baghdad

Continued from page 1

had visited Iraq 48 times since 1979 — 40 of them during the eight-year war.

In brief remarks to reporters after the presentation ceremony, the King said it was an honour for all Jordanians to support Iraq in its defence of Arab soil against aggression.

He said the honour that Iraq bestowed was not only for Jordan but also for the Arab World "in whose hearts Iraq lived throughout the years of the war."

He paid tribute to the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and armed forces in defence of Arab land and said the Iraqis had written a glorious history for the Arab World by successfully defending their land against aggression.

Upon his return to Amman the King was received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan

and senior government officials and high-ranking army officers. King Hussein was accompanied on the visit to Baghdad by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Royal Court Chief of Staff Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Kuwait's Al Ra'i Al Aam daily Monday described the efforts Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen are undertaking to form a sub-regional economic bloc as a step in the right direction.

The paper said that the Arab countries had no option but cooperation. "The successes which the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries achieved stimulate us into seeking further successful unionist experiences," the paper added. The paper expressed hope that it would "not be too long before we see the establishment of cooperation, relations among Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen in addition to Syria."

Suheimat, World Bank team discuss industrial projects

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A team from the World Bank Monday called at the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) and was briefed by its Director General Faysal Suheimat on industrial projects in the Kingdom.

Suheimat spoke in detail on incentives given to investors, tax exemptions and other privileges offered to facilitate industrial investment processes.

Suheimat accompanied the team on a tour of the Sahab Industrial City and briefed its members on the types of businesses established there.

Suheimat announced Friday that 154 industrial businesses have already been established in Sahab Industrial City of which 50 were set up after Aug. 13, 1988 following the government's economic measures designed to boost and stimulate the national industry.

Not a single building is now available for occupancy at the Sahab Industrial City, Suheimat announced.

But he said that the JIEC will shortly accept applications for those wishing to establish industrial businesses in the Al Hassan Industrial City in Irbid.

Jordan to host medical conference in March

AMMAN (Petra) — In cooperation with the National Health Institute (NHI) and the U.S.-based Arab-American Doctors Association, the University of Jordan will hold a conference for Arab-American doctors during the month of March.

Dr. Mahmood Abu Khalaf, chairman of the conference's

organising committee, said that the conference will discuss over a three-day period a number of papers specialising in various medical fields.

Taking part in the conference will be a number of members from University of Jordan's Faculty of Medicine in addition to doctors at the NHI and the Arab American Doctors Association.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An agricultural exhibition displaying agricultural equipment and products at the Professional Association Complex.
- * A computer exhibition displaying a new line of computers with greater performance and new power at Marriott Hotel in Amman.
- * The Arab book exhibition that includes books on different topics at Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of Korean photos, books and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- * A film entitled "Fandango" which is shown as part of the American Centre's 1989 film festival at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- * A German film entitled "Straight Through the Heart" (English subtitled) at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday presents a diploma to one of the graduates from Jordanian nursing colleges at the Palace of Culture in Amman. Hussein Sports City in Amman (Photo by Abdulrahman Ayyoub)

160 nurses, midwives graduate

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A total of 160 nurses and midwives graduated Monday from a number of nursing colleges in Jordan at a ceremony held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The Queen distributed the diplomas to the graduates who completed their courses at the training colleges in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa.

In an address at the ceremony, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas said that the new graduates will no doubt help meet the shortage of nurses and midwives in Jordanian hospitals and primary health care centres.

But, he said, the present number of nurses in the Kingdom still falls short of the country's self-sufficiency target by the year 2000.

Malhas said that work on two training colleges in Irbid and Zarqa was expected to be completed soon, and help train additional numbers of nurses.

The ministry of health is now preparing programmes for graduates to qualify them for specialised missions in the

primary health care centres, with a view to improving the general health service.

Following the creation of the National Medical Institution, the minister added, the ministry has embarked on the role of promoting the primary health care services and other related tasks.

The graduates, who received their diplomas from the Queen at the Palace of Culture of Al Hussein Youth City, came from the Jordan College of Nursing, in Amman, the Irbid College of Nursing and Midwifery and the Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery.

The Jordan College of Nursing in Amman was established in 1952 as a school of midwifery which changed into a college of nursing in 1966, according to the stipulation of law number 68 which outlined the acceptance policy and opened the college to male applicants.

The school of midwifery at the college was initiated for established nurses in 1977 and was later affiliated with the college in 1978.

The Irbid College of Nursing

and Midwifery was established in 1984 and graduated its first class in 1986.

The Zarqa College of Nursing and Midwifery was established in 1981 and graduated its first class in 1986.

Duration of study for midwifery is three academic years with intensive training over 27 months.

Duration of study for nursing is four academic years with intensive training over 36 continuous months.

Duration of study for established nurses to acquire a degree in midwifery is 12 continuous months.

Graduates acquire a diploma in midwifery or a diploma in nursing and specialised diploma for established nurses studying midwifery.

Students enrolled in the colleges are considered scholarship students of the Ministry of Health and are provided with a uniform and a monthly salary of JD 40. Students are also provided with housing and food.



Anani briefs visiting Swedish delegation

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A team representing the Swedish Environment Council called at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Monday and met with its President Jawad Al Anani to discuss issues related to curbing pollution to the environment. Anani talked about the RSS' endeavours to promote national development and its cooperation with Arab and international organisations in protect-

ing the environment. Anani also briefed the visitors on the RSS's facilities involved in anti-pollution projects. The team is currently on a visit to Jordan to study environment and pollution issues and provide the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment with proposals to deal with the problems of pollution (Petra photo).

Winning municipalities in ministry competition to receive awards

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Monday announced the names of the winners of a competition by 14 municipalities to provide the best services and the best performance in the past two years.

The announcement was made by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs Marwan Hmoud who said that awards and prizes

together worth JD 72,000 will be presented to the winning municipalities at a ceremony to be held next Monday in the city of Madaba under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The minister told a press conference that the competition was organised as part of the Kingdom's drive to promote the work of municipal councils and provide

the best possible services for the local communities.

The ministry had divided the municipal councils into four categories for the sake of controlling the process of choosing and deciding on the winners in the light of their performance over the past two years, Hmoud said.

The minister said that in the first category of municipalities Irbid came first, Salt came second and Tafleh came third.

In the second category, Ruseifah came first, Madaba came second and Mazar Janoubi came third, in the third category category Hashimieh came first, Fubeis came second and Ain Al Basha came third, and in the fourth category Dhiban came first, Duleil came second and Jadideh came third.

The minister said the results of a new competition was launched at the beginning of 1989 will be announced in 1990 and work is underway to arrange for a new competition for rural councils.

In the light of the results, the ministry will make plans and to encourage municipal councils to improve their performance and their activities with a view to providing better services and curbing movement of people from rural to urban regions.

UNESCO seminar on teaching technology opens

'Teaching technological subjects contributed to Arab development'

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Arab countries have been displaying increasing interest in teaching technological subjects at its primary and secondary school levels, and this has positively contributed to a great extent to promoting social, economic and cultural development in the Arab World, a leading official from the Amman-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) regional office said Monday.

UNESCO, through its varied programmes and activities, has been helping to improve and modernise the methods of teaching science and technology in schools in the Arab World, said Khaled Al Khawwad, assistant director of UNESCO's regional office here.

Khawwad was addressing the opening session of a four-day meeting, organised by UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, to discuss matters related to the teaching of science and technology in the Arab World.

Addressing the opening session was Dr. Munther Al Masri, the Ministry of Education's secretary general, who deputised for Minister of Education Thouqan Al Hindawi.

"The education system in the Kingdom is undergoing comprehensive development to help Jordanians adapt to various developments and variables, and to exploit resources with the least possible cost and with the help of science and technology," Masri said.

The changes and developments in the educational system, Masri added, are being carried out in implementation of the first national educational conference held in Amman in 1987, which

formation Network for Science and Technology Education, is designed to help improve and update the Arab World's curricula in science and technology at various school levels.

UNESCO contributes to nation's endeavours in space and marine science, and caters to the needs of other related programmes, as well as training teachers and conducting extra curricular activities, mainly benefiting the youth, Khawwad noted.

The meeting, sponsored by UNESCO's International In-

formation Network for Science and Technology Education, is designed to help improve and update the Arab World's curricula in science and technology at various school levels.

UNESCO officials said that the delegates will review working papers on modern trends in science education and the present teaching of science and technology in Arab schools.

Jordan, he said, "joined the network in 1984 to ensure benefit from its various services."

Participants from Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Kuwait, Iraq, Morocco, Syria as well as Jordanian universities, the Royal Scientific Society, the Higher Council for Science and Technology and community colleges in Jordan are taking part in the meetings.

UNESCO officials said that the delegates will review working papers on modern trends in science education and the present teaching of science and technology in Arab schools.

Soviet institute tests rock samples to extract shale oil

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan has dispatched samples of its oil shale to the Soviet Union where they are undergoing tests for the exploitation of oil in implementation of an agreement signed here last month, and should the results prove encouraging Jordanian technicians will be sent to join Soviet specialists in this endeavour, the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) announced Monday.

according to Dr. Arafat Tamimi, RSS vice president for industrial affairs.

Tamimi said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the agreement provided for other forms of cooperation including joint research in solar energy and marketing solar heaters.

The institute also agreed with the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) to recycle the waste mineral oil, and agreed with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) to exchange visits by experts in different specialisations, according to Dr. Tamimi.

The Soviet institute will train Jordanians on conducting tests on the samples of oil shale to assess prospects for extracting oil from the rock and RSS teams will be going, to the institute once the current tests prove successful, Tamimi added.

Shale rock is found in abundance in the Lejoun area in southern Jordan and NRA officials estimate the deposits at about 13 billion tonnes.

The RSS Chemical Industries Department conducts scientific researches and studies, offers consultancy services on paints, lubricants and other petroleum products and provides advanced services in industry.



Amman governor chairs meeting on reforms

AMMAN Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Monday chaired a meeting attended by the Amman Governorate's provincial governors and heads of the development councils. The discussions focused on means to reform councils in the development regions so as to broaden popular

participation. The conferees also discussed the final recommendations of the central development regions, in addition to the development plan and the working plan for 1989. A working paper and recommendations were prepared for discussion during the next meeting (Petra photo).

Ministry workshop reviews Zarqa River Basin project

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Monday opened a workshop to review and assess steps taken so far in implementing the Zarqa River Basin project — work which has been going on for the past two years.

Addressing the meeting, acting Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud said that the project will have its great benefits on progress in agriculture and particularly in integrated rural development.

The meetings aim to enable the concerned authorities to have a clear idea about progress in the project which entails the development of high regions and to identify problems and other obstacles that impede this progress, with a view to finding proper solutions, the minister noted.

Hmoud expressed hope that the discussions and the working papers to be reviewed at the meetings will help formulate re-

solutions and recommendations for enabling the project to achieve its purpose.

The workshop was organised in cooperation with the West German technical Development Ministry which is providing assistance for the project.

Last month the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) organised a seminar on the same topic and officials said that participants considered and analysed different aspects of the project, problems that are being encountered and proper solutions for them.

The Ministry of Agriculture's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi said that the recommendations will be taken into account by planners working out executive steps in the coming stage that will see the completion of the project by 1993.

The JD 32-million project aims to develop safe land use, soil conservation and improved farm-

ing techniques on a farm-by-farm basis.

Farmers will sign contracts to follow recommended procedures that have previously been adopted only in Australia. The project managers expect that about two thirds of the 5,700 farmers in the area will sign up.

The project, which is being implemented with the help of Australia, is being funded by a number of Arab and foreign funds and financial institutions.

Ministry experts said that the project was expected to help halt the present rate of erosion in the Zarqa River Basin, reduce silt in the King Talal Dam and improve farm incomes on a sustainable basis.

Lawzi, as well as directors of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation and the Agricultural Credit Corporation, were present at the meeting together with representatives of local farmers and the private sector.

Jordan Times

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Blessings of devaluation

THERE are indeed few things in life that are either good or bad in absolute terms, and the recent Jordanian economic hardships are no exception. If anything, Jordan's recent economic and fiscal experiences serve as a good example to substantiate the proposition that the phenomenon of good or bad occur only in relative terms and that often unfortunate circumstances give rise to good achievements. Thus, due to the economic and monetary adjustments that the Kingdom had to undergo lately, industrialisation and export-oriented trends sprang all over the country as quickly as this process of adjustment began to take shape. In other words, some "bad" economic news propelled the actions to attain giant good news in Jordan. If there is a good case to support "relativity" it is this Jordanian experience.

Of course this is not just wishful thinking. A close look at the recent report of the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) tells a story of great industrial success, emerging only from the past few months of monetary and business readjustments. The director general of the JIEC has just announced that all the hangars and buildings built for industrial concerns and factories in the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) had been totally occupied, and that no more space was available for rent or sale there. He also revealed that it had been projected that the second stage of the Sahab Industrial City would be sufficient for all potential investors until the year 1991, but that greater demand for facilities and installations had made that impossible. In other words, the demand for space to construct industrial concerns has exceeded all expectation for no other reason than the fixation of the dinar and the application of macro-economic and monetary measures to promote Jordanian export and curtail imports. No wonder then that 50 out of 150 new industrial plants that have already been established in SIC were created after Aug. 13, 1988, the date on which the government introduced new macro-economic policies aiming for reducing imports and increasing exports, in a manner that would make maximum profit from the devaluation of the dinar.

Such hard evidence obviously vindicates the Aug. 13 austerity plans. It is most comforting to note that the total investment in the new Jordanian ventures has reached the sizeable figure of 70 million dinars and are projected to create gainable employment to some 4,000 Jordanians. Thus the message from all this is loud and clear: The devaluation of the Jordanian dinar in conjunction with the new economic and fiscal policies of our country have spelled big macro-economic successes.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Monday tackled King Hussein's visit to Iraq and his talks with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The on-going consultations between the two leaders, the paper said, are part of their endeavours to enhance solidarity among Arab countries at large, a move considered essential for helping the Arab Nation to confront the common challenges. There is no doubt that the Arab Cooperation Council whose finishing touches are being put now in four Arab countries will be among the most important topics for discussion in Baghdad, the paper noted. It said that the two leaders are also bound to discuss current Arab affairs and the uprising in the occupied Arab territories as well as current efforts being made to convene an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. Needless to say that the talks which will also cover the situation in the Gulf region and Israel's implied threats to Iraq require close follow up and in-depth discussion, the paper noted. It said that such close coordination could be stronger and on a wider base if held through a summit meeting of which the Arab Nation is in need at present. It is true that Iraq and Jordan are maintaining exemplary relations, the paper concluded, but through an Arab summit they can contribute more successfully towards serving the Arab Nation's cause.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily tackles the Afghanistan question and says that the Soviet troop pullout came about not as a result of any pressures from the rebels nor as a consequence of international leverage on Moscow but rather through an agreement on a settlement. Abdul Rahim Omar says that the international community is now influenced by a feeling of peace which should be established anywhere in the world; and it is this spirit which has opened the way for the Soviet troops to pull out of the embattled nation. Of course no one can claim that such a move will end the internal conflict in Afghanistan, because the chance for foreign intervention in that country will always be present, the writer points out. He says that it is because Moscow wanted to put an end to that intervention that it had sent its forces to Afghanistan in the first place, and for the sake of achieving peace it has now agreed to pull out its troops. With the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the writer adds, the arena will be left for the various parties and political groups in that country to find a formula for lasting peace.

Al Mustaqbil daily paper described King Hussein's visit to Iraq as emphasising the strong relationship between the two sister countries. The visit assumes greater importance and more significance taking place at a time when Iraq and Jordan are involved in preparations for the declaration of the Arab Cooperation Council which will no doubt be a very favourable development that would boost the status of the Arab World, the paper noted. It said that Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation which was particularly bolstered during the eight-year Gulf war, is not taking a new trend, embodying more Arab states and rendering more strength to the Arab Nation.

Sawt al-Sabah daily commented on a statement by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to the Kuwait Al Watan newspaper in which he outlined Jordan's internal and foreign policies and presented the Kingdom's views on a future settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The prime minister reiterated Jordan's calls for an international conference with the participation of all concerned parties including the PLO; and said that this is required if peace is to be established permanently in the region, the paper noted.

The following article is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post.

By Oscar Franklin

THERE is a small, but insightful, story about the contribution of the High Court of Justice to maintaining a (some say less than) minimum of human rights in the West Bank and Gaza.

An owner of a small printing shop in Nablus received an order last spring to close down his business for a period of two years. He approached the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) and claimed a grave mistake had been made: he was not connected in any way with printing intifada pamphlets or any other unlawful material.

A tedious process of bargaining ensued between ACRI and the authorities with long, stubborn negotiations in which the possibility of applying to the High Court (a *bagatz* petition) was frequently mentioned. Last December, the army reconsidered its decision — without fully admitting its mistake. The Palestinian is now operating his print shop again (but apparently with very few clients).

No petition was ever actually submitted. If there had been one, it would probably have been rejected by the court. The army would have declared it had acquired confidential information linking the owner to hostile activity. It would have refused to disclose any of it and the court would have cooperated fully.

So, what is the connection, and what is the contribution?

Well, it is definitely a most indirect and passive one. The court serves as a whip, a threat, a context for bargaining, an off-silent backdrop which, by its mere existence, sometimes prompts the authorities to find a solution to problems that basically should have been solved in other ways.

Since the first phase of the intifada, right-wing politicians have repeatedly and vocally demanded that access to the High

Court be barred to inhabitants of the occupied territories. In the view of some, the court has retained an image of a protector of human rights, of being "too leftist." It has been accused of obstructing the army's efforts to put an end to the intifada once and for all.

A quick look at the statistics will reveal that interpretation to be a groundless myth. In more than a year of severe riots, stone-throwing, Molotov cocktails and the corresponding harsh punishment policy, the High Court has accepted only one petition originating from the territories. That was the case of Awad Hamdan, who died while being held for interrogation; the court compelled the authorities to inform his family of the cause of his death. In fact, Hamdan died in July, '87, just a few months before the intifada broke out, so it is not really an intifada story.

At the beginning of February, the High Court was highly praised for setting two precedents — the case of the Jerusalem football stadium, and the *Ha'ir* story on the replacement of the head of the Mossad. But one cannot escape the impression that Justice hesitates before "crossing the Green Line" and perhaps those two judgements only exemplified the growing distance between the two patterns of norms and government.

Let's examine a typical month: September '88. Seventeen petitions were submitted to the High Court: 13 dealt with the demolition of houses; one with cancelling an administrative order; one with the denial of a permit to leave a restricted area; one with closing a public association, and one with release from detention.

Four of the petitions were rejected by the court; 13 were withdrawn by the petitioners themselves; none was accepted. This represents a routine proportion between petitions which are rejected (25 per cent) and those which are revoked (75 per cent). The ratio increased lately following the larger number of petitions concerning the demolition of houses. Last August, of a record

number of 26 petitions, 18 dealt with this issue. If anything, this figure reveals the light finger the army holds on the trigger.

Of 10 petitions submitted in January '88, the second month of the intifada, none dealt with the demolition of houses. (In those early days, the most common issues were deportations and leaving a restricted area).

These figures uncover one function that the High Court does maintain — that of an information bureau. Approaching the High Court of Justice in a demolition case usually yields an interim injunction: this means "buying time" and acquiring information. The authorities must then reveal their intentions. But it should be noted that the court has never directly prevented a demolition of any building.

Petitioning the High Court of Justice on intifada issues has become the expertise of a small, but quite well-known, group of lawyers — most, if not all, of whom are politically inclined. They say that since the outbreak of the uprising their task has become more frustrating than before. They say the court tends to accept, blindly, every legal argument wrapped in security considerations.

Attorney Joshua Schoffman of ACRI says the court tends readily to adopt arguments such as "let the military commander do his job. Don't obstruct...The court generally accepts the military's claims that a given course is essential to security without going into the reasons and basis for it."

When a petition was submitted after the telephone system in the territories was disconnected from the international telephone exchange, the court ruled that it would not consider the effectiveness or wisdom of that measure, but accepted the professional opinion of the military. Schoffman notes that, after a short time, the Palestinians found several easy ways to bypass the restriction — and the order was abolished.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statement last week about having second thoughts on

the effectiveness of the deportation policy caused several eyebrows to be raised. The state has vigorously defended these deportations in court. What will the court say in future when the state defends another case of deportation? Will Rabin's statement prompt the court to be more sceptical concerning the necessity of certain military policies?

Avigdor Feldman, another prominent lawyer who appears in court in intifada cases, complains that the court often shows obsequiousness in such cases and a lack of empathy for the plight of the Palestinians. He has heard justices claim they do not understand anything in defence matters and have no choice but to accept whatever position is presented to them by the Shin Bet (General Security Services).

The High Court has apparently not debated some of the most crucial legal aspects of the intifada, such as the use of excessive violence by soldiers or the custom of confiscating identity cards. Schoffman tells a story of a Palestinian whose house was raided by soldiers looking for his brother. When they were unable to find him, they took the man's ID — "until your brother comes in for investigation."

This kind of case usually does not come to court at all, says Schoffman. "We approached the West Bank military administration's legal adviser and were told that this was indeed illegal. The ID was returned and we were promised that such incidents would not recur; but, in the long run, nothing helps. It may be unlawful — but it's very convenient for the soldiers."

Schoffman says that ACRI does not "rush to court" very often and prefers to choose test cases very carefully and to bring them to court when there is some hope of overturning the government's action.

But lawyer Lea Tzmel, who probably is behind the largest number of intifada petitions, still does "rush to court," she represents the extreme left segment of the political spectrum and claims

that her motivation lies in the certain belief that, eventually, she will be able to convince the court.

Tzmel recalls a petition concerning the return of several shacks on the beach by Khan Yunis which were handed over to Jewish settlers. "The court reacted with impatience which I had not encountered before. Justices Ya'acov Maltz and Dov Levine asked me 'Isn't there enough of the sea for everybody?' and rejected the appeal outright."

In at least two major cases, the court took a more considerate approach to the human needs of the petitioners. In the case of the Ketzio detention camp, which was not accepted for trial, the court bothered to visit the place and issued some recommendations to ensure the rights of the detainees.

And in the Beita affair, ACRI appealed to the court on its own behalf to prevent a second wave of house demolitions in the village which was under curfew. The court asked the army if it was prepared to notify owners of houses of an intention-to-demolish 48 hours in advance, and to allow them to contact a lawyer. The government lawyers reacted positively. The army further agreed that this would be the rule for future cases as well. Except for serious incidents, the inhabitants will be entitled to 48 hours' prior warning.

Schoffman says that this is the prevailing arrangement in Gaza, while in the West Bank the military commander usually orders a demolition without giving sufficient time to appeal. Statistics of petitions brought to court show that, in Gaza, where people were notified in 26 cases out of 30 (from August to November '88) the military commander was persuaded to alter his initial decision, and usually resorted to sealing up only part of the building instead of demolishing it altogether.

The High Court is expected to decide whether to enforce the

arrangement on the army legally, instead of leaving the issue to be decided by the local commander. The demolition issue goes to show that the statistics do not reveal the whole picture.

The role assumed by the court in the intifada is quite a complicated one. The high percentage of petitions withdrawn by the applicants signifies that at least some were solved outside the courtroom.

Some petitions are important for their declarative value, for the fact that they bring a certain subject to the attention of the public. Others are used as a pretext for the state and the military legal system to intervene and to settle problems outside the courtroom. When army commanders are forced to examine a problem through a legal system they must sometimes amend their decisions. Major steps, political or military, which concern the territories are often tackled with the inevitable question: "Will it stand up to a *bagatz* petition?"

This has become a sort of magic formula that forces decision-makers to rethink. Perhaps the whip is an imaginary one. If the generals and the ministers were aware of the statistics they would have known that the chances of the court overturning their decrees are particularly slim.

The bottom line is that some of the indifference revealed by the court and the authorities is remedied by lawyers, some of whom wear military uniforms, and some of whom are civil servants.

Eventually, it is the collaboration of private and government lawyers that creates the most results. Maybe this is another aspect of the alleged "judicialisation" of our society. It sometimes becomes powerful mainly because the other channels for solving problems are often blocked.

For displaying even limited good will on the part of state and military lawyers, *Bagatz* frequently serves as a cover — but also as an excuse.

Canada appeals to Israel to uphold Palestinian human rights

The following is a statement on human rights situation in occupied territories made on Feb. 2, 1989 by the Canadian representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights:

SINCE the last meeting of this commission, the government of Canada has clearly expressed its view of the human rights situation in the territories occupied by Israel. It is a straightforward position which is grounded in international law and in a fundamental conviction in the dignity of every human being. As expressed by the prime minister of Canada, "true justice knows no boundaries and human rights no caveat."

There are many aspects to the conflict which have given rise to the situation, which is rooted in more than a generation of war and intercommunal strife. It is not within our purview here to analyse its causes or address the political requirements of a solution. Yet any prospect of lasting

qualitative improvement is inseparable from progress towards a political settlement that can put an end to an untenable situation of occupation. The government of Canada is deeply concerned about the slow pace of such movement, which we view as urgent.

This commission's mandate is to examine the violation of human rights. The pre-eminent authorities charged by the international community with specific responsibilities for various aspects of the situation in the West Bank and Gaza, the secretary general of the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Refugees in the Near East, concur in their official findings that the human rights of Palestinians have been and continue to be abused. The indisputable statements of authorities which Canada recognises and respects are disturbing and painful to my government, which considers itself a friend of Israel and a faithful and deter-

mined upholder of its right to security and recognition, together with the other states of the region. Yet the same values upon which Canada's historic bonds with the state of Israel are established compel my government to state that the human rights violations which have been documented, including Israeli settlements in the territories, are unacceptable and contrary to international law.

The Fourth Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Times of War establishes parameters for the conduct of an occupying power. As a contracting party to the convention, Israel is bound by it in all the territories which it has occupied since 1967. The government of Canada unequivocally accepts statements to this effect by the ICRC, acting as the trustee of the convention. Itself a party to this covenant, the government of Canada considers it its duty bound, together with all other parties, to uphold the effectiveness of this fundamental instrument of international law. We

join in the appeal of the international community to Israel that it abide by its legal obligations and apply the convention.

My government is on record for its support of Security Council Resolutions 605, 607 and 608, which all expressed this principle with particular emphasis on article 49 which prohibits the deportation of individuals or groups. The deportations of recent weeks, which bring the total of such cases to 49, are therefore of particular concern to Canada.

Similarly disturbing has been the introduction of plastic coated metal bullets which have caused a dramatic increase in the number of deaths and severe wounds, and which bear little relation to the degree of force required to keep order. Both multilaterally as in this instance and directly to the government of Israel, Canada has vigorously expressed its unhappiness at what are unquestionable breaches of commitment to international humanitarian law. Our foremost concern in this

commission is the correction of situations which are brought to our attention. It is incumbent on us in our consideration of this item to send an unequivocal appeal to the government of Israel that breaches of the human rights of Palestinians must stop. The international community has already spoken strongly, but it is especially important that positions taken here reflect that consensus in order to ensure its maximum impact on the Israeli authorities.

The improvement of the human rights record in the occupied territories is essential in itself. It is also critical to prospects for a political settlement which alone can put an end to the military occupation which in turn gives rise to the violations. Our consideration of this item should never lose sight of our collective responsibility to contribute effectively to the kind of qualitative change we seek. The government of Canada was pleased to note the release from detention of

Faisal Al Hussein and others and the announcement that the Israeli authorities will not proceed with a number of additional deportations which evidently had been intended. Those are positive steps of the kind we wish to encourage.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I wish to express the gratitude and admiration of the government of Canada for the dedication, competence and courage of the ICRC and of UNRWA in the accomplishment of their respective mandates. These agencies and their staff have played a critical role in asserting the human dignity and rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories over the past fourteen months. They have done so in the face of difficulties in securing cooperation from the local authorities and a lack of basic security conditions. They have fully justified the confidence of the international community and Canada salutes their commitment, tenacity and spirit of self-sacrifice.

Why it happened: Stroessner tried to retire Rodriguez

By Elizabeth Love
Associated Press Writer

ASUNCION, Paraguay — Gen. Alfredo Stroessner's long tenure as dictator ended because he tampered too much with the institution that propelled him into power 34 years ago: the military. Stroessner tried to force his most powerful military leader, Gen. Andres Rodriguez, into retirement, and his recent shakeups of the army caused widespread resentment among his officers.

That, combined with Stroessner's ultimate plans to have his son succeed him as president, led to the violent coup that ended the 76-year-old general's rule and vaulted Rodriguez to power on Friday.

"Stroessner tried to take away some of the regiments controlled by Rodriguez and thus reduce his power — a technique he (Stroessner) has used for years. But this time he committed a very big indiscretion," Edgar Insfran, an interior minister for 10 years during the 1950s and 1960s, said in an interview.

Rodriguez was bolstered by disaffected officers who resented a reshuffling last month that resulted in the retirement of about 100 army colonels and 35 navy captains, said opposition leader Domingo Laino, president of the authentic radical Liberal Party and leader of the National Accord Opposition Coalition.

"(Rodriguez) took advantage of the general ill feeling within most of the military units to deal Stroessner a lethal blow," said Laino, who returned in 1987 from a long period of exile and now is Paraguay's best-known human rights activist.

Conflict between the two generals had been simmering since 1984, when the ruling Colorado Party split divisively into two factions: the militants who supported Stroessner unconditionally, and the traditionalists who favoured democratic reforms and a distancing of the 101-year-old party from the unpopular, authoritarian ruler.

Differences between Stroessner and Rodriguez reportedly came to a head in 1987, when the militant faction wrested leadership of the party from traditionalists by using strong-arm tactics, including the barring of traditionalist delegates from entering the congress where leaders were elected.

At that congress, Juan Ramon Chavez, in his 25th year as party chairman, was unseated by Sabino Montonaro, Stroessner's interior minister. On Friday, Rodriguez replaced Chavez, 87, as chairman to the cheers of 15,000 people who gathered outside the party headquarters.

In the five months since Stroessner underwent a prostate operation, from which he has been slow to recover, his militant

supporters have promoted his son Gustavo, a lieutenant colonel in the air force, to succeed him. That, too, alienated the military. "Rodriguez wanted to break away from the militant group that was pushing for the continuance of Stroessner's line by saying, 'after Stroessner, another Stroessner,'" said Laino.

In the perspective of Acevedo, "the detonating factor was the threat of retiring Rodriguez."

In spite of the predominantly military motives for the rebellion, opposition leaders remain optimistic that Rodriguez could bring greater democratisation of Paraguay.

"We have firm hopes... a government of transition cannot survive without a democratic opening," said Euclides Acevedo of the revolutionary Febrerista Party.

Other factors, such as Paraguay's deteriorating economy and Stroessner's apparent failing health, played a role in the rebellion.

"The military crisis alone could not have done this," said Juan Carlos Galaverna of the dissident Popular Colorado Movement. "It's important to remember the real protagonists are the people and the military has simply been the instrument."

Is 3rd world Marxism retreating?

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — Nearly 30 years ago, in "The End of Ideology," Daniel Bell wrote that the universalist political ideas of the 19th century were exhausted, Marxism in particular. Its premises about the crisis of capitalism and the superiority of socialist organisation had simply not squared with reality.

When the book was reissued last year by the Harvard University Press, Professor Bell said wryly in an afterword that it was better known for its title than its contents. But all about us we see the vindication of his insight: the exhaustion of Marxism.

The point was brought home to me just now in the course of visits to Angola, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Most newly independent African countries hitched their economic hopes to some version of socialism. The results have been disastrous. Now the flight from Marxism has become a stampede.

Angola is a dramatic example. Its government took power at independence in 1975 as a Marxist movement. It has been supported by massive Soviet aid and Cuban troops. For those reasons it is anathema to American conservatives, and the United States aids the rebel movement of Jonas Savimbi, who, ironically, used to talk just as fierce a Marxist line.

Today in Luanda one hears little Marxist ideology. The emphasis is on movement toward free markets — to whatever prevail.

ruling party, the MPLA. A key figure among them, Pedro de Castro Van Dunem, until lately minister of state for petroleum and production but just appointed foreign minister, said recently: "The biggest mistake we made was to make the state sector larger and larger when we did not have the capacity to manage it. There will be a very big reduction of the state's participation in the economy."

Van Dunem attended a conference in Lusaka, Zambia, last month. There he gave high praise to the American officials who mediated the recent agreement with South Africa.

Asked by reporters about his government's ideology, he said: "We are an Angolan state first — with a socialist orientation, but not Marxist and not Communist. No prefabricated labels."

American oil men who do business in Angola — big business — say they find the officials with whom they deal straightforward and practical, with no ideological hang-ups. Jack Blackshire, resident manager for Conoco, told me: "It's easier to do business here than in some places in the States."

Angola began its economic reforms two years ago, before Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika got going. But the new Soviet attitudes are surely having an effect in Angola, elsewhere in Africa and the whole Third World.

Last year an article in the Soviet journal *Literaturnaya* of the naive — of trying to

apply Marxist theories to economic development in Africa. Where it has influence, the USSR is hardly likely now to object to African governments moving to free-market methods. Moscow also wants to reduce its foreign aid costs.

When Bell wrote about the exhaustion of the old universalist theories, he said that the new states of Africa and Asia were fashioning their own more particular ideologies. But those, too, seem to have faded in Africa. People are concerned with the necessities of daily life: food, clothes, shelter. They care not about a government's slogans but about its effectiveness.

In those terms Zimbabwe is a success story. Robert Mugabe has an egalitarian socialist vision, but he has not followed an ideological line. The country is prosperous. Zambia is a sad contrast. Its president, Kenneth Kaunda, is rightly honoured as a great figure in the African liberation movement, but he has presided over an appalling economic slide. Average real income in Zambia has fallen by two-thirds in the last 15 years. Store shelves are empty.

The Zambian government blames everything on external forces, like falling prices for its copper. Those problems are real, but so are corruption and the folly of trying to run the economy from an incompetent centre.

For that reason I thought it was unfortunate that Jesse Jackson, speaking in Lusaka, this month denounced the RMP as "slave masters" — of trying to

جوردين تايمز

Building body defences against stress

There are ways of building body defences simply before the trouble starts or complex treatment becomes inevitable.

By Rene Diekstra

GENEVA, Switzerland — Where does good health come from? Why are we not ill more often? What is there to prevent the "viruses" and bacteria that threaten us throughout our lives from acting with complete immunity?

When germs invade our bodies, we owe our continued good health to a highly efficient defence system which eliminates 90 per cent of the microbes before they can establish a bridgehead. We would be wrong to suppose that this immune system operates with complete autonomy. In fact, it has only a limited degree of independence, and we can either strengthen or weaken it by the way we live.

Our immune system is divided into two sub-systems. The first, which is called the non-specific, serves as a defensive line and resists the invaders by mechanical and chemical means. The second, the specific system, moves in to kill the viruses and bacteria which nonetheless manage to penetrate our blood circulation system.

The skin, a veritable protective

wall, is the main element of non-specific defence, and behind it are the various mucus that catch and kill any attacking germs. The cilia flagella — tiny whip-like hairs in the upper part of the respiratory tract — transport the microbes that we have inhaled back to the upper throat and neutralise their action. Tears and saliva prevent microbes from taking hold, while the gastric juices in the stomach are capable of killing bacteria and rendering harmless the toxic substances they produce.

The specific immune system is a form of defence which reacts according to the type of attacking microbes. At the least warning, our body begins to manufacture enormous quantities of two groups of cells: T and B cells, of which there are thousands of types adapted to each microbe. The T and B cells identify the enemy, destroy or neutralise its action. They also ensure the production of antibodies against future infections.

This sensitive and delicate machinery puts its formidable efficiency at our disposal apparently without demanding anything in return. But it is in our own interest to deal gently with it and thus assist it in its task. We can do this because our immune competence is intimately linked to our lifestyle.

Certain behaviours are not

good for our health, as we well know. And certain events that affect us leave traces behind in our body systems; there is always a link between psychological and physical health. Often, simple behaviours can serve to strengthen our immune competence. Sometimes a little assistance is necessary. Let me pass on some advice from eminent immunologists and psycho-immunologists.

Make sure your diet is rich in iron. A lack of iron directly affects the immune system: it diminishes the number of T cells and weakens their activity. The production of antibodies through B cells also drops. The explanation for this is that iron is essential for binding oxygen to the blood cells and, of course, oxygen is essential for the function of every cell of every organ.

Use iron or steel pans for cooking and preparing food. Eat as much as possible of food that is rich in iron, such as lean meat, and fruit and vegetables rich in vitamin C. Shellfish, leafy vegetables and eggs are also a source of iron. Where not enough food rich in iron is available, iron pills or tablets should preferably be used as a dietary supplement.

Do not smoke. Smoking damages the cilia flagella cells in the respiratory tract, opening the way to infections. And the elimination of the toxic substances that through smoking get into the

blood and the cells, occupies part of the immune system capacity to such an extent that it is not available to do its proper job elsewhere in the body, where infections, for example, might be developing.

Avoid air which is too dry and too hot. The former dries up the mucus of the upper respiratory tract and increases the risk of infection. It is best not to heat your house above 18 to 19 degrees Centigrade in winter, and to lower the temperature during the night. Use any means to humidify the air appropriately.

Be wary of the sun. Excessive exposure to sunlight weakens the activity of the T cells.

Exercise regularly. Walking, moderate jogging, sport strengthens the body, tones up the cardiovascular system and increases the number of T and B cells.

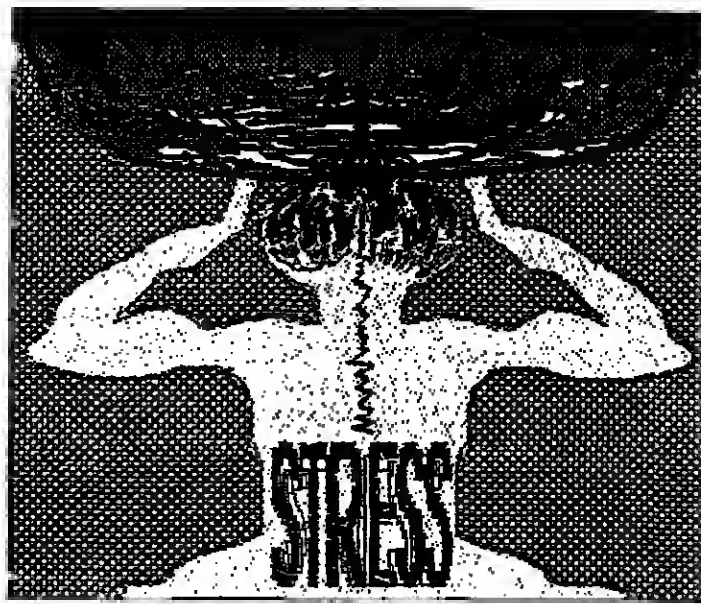
Control your stress. Contrary to what people today often seem to believe, stress in itself is not damaging to our health. A life with certain stressful challenges, that completely or partially can be mastered, is a rewarding and often healthy life. However, chronic levels of stress cause hormonal changes which in turn decrease the number and activity of T and B cells and therewith make you more vulnerable to infection and disease.

Two categories of symptoms can be distinguished. First of all, physical symptoms such as frequent headaches, backache, muscular pains, heart-pounding, repeated colds and stomach upsets. Secondly, there are often very clear emotional or mood symptoms such as prolonged feelings of insecurity, having difficulty sleeping at night, becoming nervous and starting to worry very frequently.

Research has shown that there are some general methods of controlling stress that would benefit practically everyone. One of the most important of them is learning relaxation through muscular relaxation exercises or meditation exercises.

Such methods affect the immune system because they influence the secretion of certain hormones in the blood that, in excessive quantities, suppress effective immune functioning. For most people relaxation is something that should be learned and be habitual. It should be done for 10 to 15 minutes at least once and preferably twice a day.

It is also beneficial to listen regularly to soothing music but without doing anything else, even reading. In a recent study it was shown that music releases certain chemicals in the brain which affect how well immune cells respond to germs — Academic File.



- STRESS ALARMS**
- MIND**
- Sleeplessness
 - Frequent worrying
 - Forgetfulness
 - Nervous ticks
 - Sense of insecurity
- BODY**
- Headache
 - Stiff neck
 - Stomach upset
 - Heart-pounding
 - Sweaty hands
 - Light-headedness
 - Stammering

Researchers target drug abuse

By Sonni Efron
The Associated Press

BOSTON — "Wanted: people aged 18 to 29 to take recreational drugs as part of a scientific study. Earn up to \$400 in four afternoons."

That recent newspaper advertisement is part of the quiet battle

waged by drug companies and the U.S. government to find ways to curb recreational use of prescription drugs.

Scientists hire the volunteers to learn what makes some drugs so pleasant that they are likely to be abused. They hope to use that knowledge to develop drugs that are as effective but not pleasurable enough for illicit use.

Drug companies use the studies to decide whether to market a new drug, and in what dosages. Federal agencies use the data to decide whether to approve a drug for sale or impose certain restrictions on how it may be prescribed.

If the drug makes subjects euphoric, they are asked whether they would take it again for pleasure, and how much they would pay for it on the street.

The four categories of drugs that cause the most trouble, and are most scrupulously tested, are painkillers, diet pills, sleeping aids and anti-anxiety drugs, said Dr. John J. Boren of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Drug companies have been trying for years to develop painkillers as effective as morphine but not as addictive, Boren said. Pharmacologists already have been able to invent new sleeping pills that are less habit-forming than the traditional sort, barbiturates, he said.

Abuse-proof drugs are not just medically desirable, they also can be immensely profitable, since doctors are likely to prescribe them with a freer hand.

One such money-maker is the anti-anxiety drug Buspar, which was tested in Boston by Dr. Jonathan O. Cole, chief of psychopharmacology at McLean Hospital, a psychiatric facility which is a Harvard University teaching hospital.

"The question was: 'Gee, do people who like downers (barbiturates) like this stuff?'" Cole said.

Most of Cole's volunteers are college students. "When they call up, we try to get histories from them of what they use and don't use," he said. But researchers must be careful because would-be volunteers tend to offer the medical history they think is wanted.

"We want people who have taken sedative drugs recently and taken them often enough that we're reasonably sure nothing's going to happen to them," Cole said. Occasional users and those who appear mentally unstable are rejected. Usually about one-third of the applicants are accepted.

For the Buspar study, Cole recruited subjects who had taken Valium or Barbiturates for pleasure but seemed stable. On four different afternoons, they were given Valium, Buspar, Quaaludes or a Placebo, a "dummy" pill with no effects, but were not told which they had taken.

The subjects found the Quaaludes very euphoric, the Valium about half as euphoric, and the Buspar not much different from the Placebo.

FDA

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the drug for sale in 1986, and it is now one of the most successful drugs that Bristol-Myers has ever launched, according to company spokeswoman Janet Lindholm.

Buspar now competes with other anti-anxiety drugs including Valium, Zanax and Atavan in a market worth \$600 million to \$700 million per year, said Scott Litherland, another company spokesman.

The best results have been with patients who have never taken anti-anxiety drugs because some long-term patients associate feeling less anxious with the sedation and euphoria that drugs like Valium produce, Litherland said.

"They can pop a Valium and they feel better, but that's not the anti-anxiety effect," he said. "It's the side effect that they think makes them feel better."

Bristol-Myers recommends doctors wear such patients from sedatives before they prescribe Buspar, he said.

Depending on the type of drug being tested, scientists may recruit college students, prisoners, recovered addicts or people in methadone programmes, said Frank Vocci, Chief of the Drug Abuse staff of the FDA. Some are regulars.

"You will have people who have assorted drug histories who'll try to get into every study that's being run," Vocci said. "...they sit around on this little ward and play mind games (a video game system) and enjoy themselves for a week."

In addition to human testing, each year about 250 experimental drugs are tried on animals to see if they are physically or psychologically addictive.

In one common test, monkeys are trained to push a lever that injects them with a drug. They are then allowed to give themselves as many injections as they like on the premise that if the monkeys take it, so will people.

A boom for Indian tourism

By K.R. Sudhama

TOURISM in India has a potential of "Himalayan magnitude," and the government is gearing itself to tap it to the optimum extent, so that by the turn of the century, the industry proves a major foreign exchange earner for the country.

Designated Destination India Decade, the nineties are being projected as "tourism boom years" in anticipation of the new craving among international tourists for alternatives to traditional destinations in Europe and North America, which have come "saturated and exhausted."

While, dotted as the country is with hundreds of places of historical interest, the cultural aspect will continue to be the linchpin of Indian tourism, it has also acquired a new positive dimension recently. For, according to Mr. B.K. Goswami, Director General of Tourism in the government, for the first time India is being looked upon as a destination of "leisure and adventure tourism" as well.

The historic and cultural mosaic India offers to foreign tourists is indeed unique. Indian civilisation is an amalgam of the Vedic, Islamic and Western streams. Its monuments, sculptures and paintings bear testimony to an ethos for harmony in diversity blended into a composite culture.

These have, in part, been sustained by colourful and varied geographical features, such as the lofty Himalayas, which not only raise the human spirit to divine heights, but also offer a whole range of adventure sports. The country also boasts of some of the best beaches in the world with an irresistible combination of sunshine, sand and sea.

A chain of national parks, bird sanctuaries and an abundance of fairs and festivals are unmatched in the world. As a tourism minister once exclaimed, "product India can boast of being exceptional and unique in many ways."

With more and more tourists converging upon the country, the Tourism Department has drawn up a Master Plan to develop new sites in the country. The effort would be to demolish the restrictive nature of tourism which had become localised to the "golden triangle" of Delhi-Agra-Jaipur. Now the south and the east, known for their beautiful temples, miles and miles of coastline with serene beaches and palm groves, are being promoted.

Opening up

Already these regions have "opened up" with more international flights operating from Madras and Calcutta.

The government also plans to promote chartered flights to places like Madras and Bhu-

baneswar (on the way to the Sun Temple at Konarak and the famous Jagannatha temple and the beach at Puri in Orissa).

According to Tourism Secretary S.K. Misra, India's image as a cultural paradise will remain its strong point in the marketing of the country as a tourist destination overseas. However, now a holiday image is being promoted as well. As such opportunities for mountaineering, trekking and swimming are being provided on a wide scale.

In this context, the Lakshadweep archipelago in the Arabian Sea. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal, the Mahabalipuram beach resort near Madras and the beaches of Goa and Puri are witnessing a transformation geared to receive an increasing number of visitors from abroad. An added attraction is the facility to host conventions and conferences at most of these centres.

Furthermore, international festivals are being promoted, providing opportunities for witness-

ing "the vitality in India." According to Mr. Goswami, the success of the recent Mango festival at Saharanpur, north of Delhi, has inspired the government to hold more festivals in future.

For instance, a three-day kite flying festival was planned in Ahmedabad in mid-January. Then, under the theme, "Totally an Indian Touch," a fashion parade of rural dresses is being organised for the first time in the country in February at Surajkund, a tourist resort near Delhi.

Another unique festival is slated for May in the southern state of Kerala. It is the Elephant Marathon, involving 126 trunks, the idea for which was mooted by a Frenchwoman. Mr. Goswami assures that all care would be taken to prevent cruelty to the animals.

Statistics speak of growing tourist inflow into India. Nearly 1.5 million foreign tourists visited India during 1987, showing a growth rate of 7.8 per cent over 1986. The foreign exchange earned in the process during fiscal



A Bharatanatyam dance pose

year April 1986-March 1987 was estimated at \$1.42 billion, as against \$1.17 billion in 1985-86. The projected earnings for 1987-88 are \$1.43 billion, and by 1990 should touch the \$2 billion mark with an expected annual inflow of two million visitors. Foreign exchange turnover is expected to double and cross \$4 billion by the turn of the century with annual tourist traffic touching three million.

Simultaneously, the Tourism

Ministry had been taking up several surveys and analytical studies to provide objective information for planning and discovering the tourism potential of selected places. The studies completed in 1987 include surveys in Himachal Pradesh, Goa and the north eastern states.

Besides, an all-India survey has been launched to study travel habits of households and foreign tourists.

— PTI features.

The odds are against the poor

ON THE one hand: good education, material affluence and job and income stability. On the other: lack of training, poverty and unemployment. The dualism of the urban population in Africa and the close link between poverty and vulnerability on the labour market emerge as particularly striking in the findings of a case study of Abidjan, recently published by the ILO's International Institute for Labour Studies.

The former capital of the Cote d'Ivoire has experienced spectacular economic and demographic development. At present it accounts for more than 80 per cent of the value added of the country's services sector and nearly 70 per cent of that of the industrial sector. Its population, which is growing at the rate of 10 per cent a year, is about 2.5 million; a quarter of the country's

total inhabitants. According to the study, one household in five lives below the poverty line and one in ten in absolute poverty. In 1985 unemployment affected one-fifth of the active population.

The study shows not only that the possibilities of finding a job are much more remote for the poor but also that their jobs and incomes are more often precarious.

In the poorest households the proportion of the heads of families without employment is nearly 56 per cent, while it is less than 20 per cent in the well-to-do households. Furthermore, the poor and very poor households include casual workers who are usually found in jobs that call for piece work or work on a daily basis.

It is not surprising that young people with only primary level education. Also the poorly

educated jobseekers, most often heads of poor households, tend to stay unemployed the longest.

Concerning access to employment, the interplay of personal or ethnic contacts remains essential in the poor households, while for the better-off workers the passport to employment is instead the diploma or test.

"This could mean that in the long term traditional society plays a contradictory role in fostering strong elements of undesirable social evolution," the study says.

It cites the need for extensive and co-ordinated action in favour of the most disadvantaged levels of the population, at a time when "the Cote d'Ivoire is engaged in a series of structural adjustment programmes" of which "the social consequences appear worrying," ILO Publications



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OAPEC sees higher demand for oil in 90s

KUWAIT (AP) — The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Sunday predicted increased demand for oil in the 1990s, making it easier for OPEC to stabilise prices on the glutted market.

OAPEC, a Kuwait-based group that includes the Arab members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), also said alternative fuels like coal and nuclear energy were declining in importance.

"The slow pace of shifts in the pattern of energy demand notwithstanding, the environment in which the world oil market will evolve during the coming few years should make the task of OPEC in achieving price stability for oil less arduous," said an editorial in the OAPEC monthly Bulletin for February.

The OAPEC member-states that also belong to the 13-nation OPEC are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Libya and Algeria. Other OAPEC member-states

are Syria, Tunisia and Bahrain, while Egypt's membership was suspended after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

"Consumption trends indicate that the shift away from oil has run its course," the Bulletin said. "Oil will once again take a bigger slice of new demand for energy because the obstacles inherent in the consumption of coal and nuclear have become more relevant as their use expanded."

It added: "The campaign to reduce the role of oil in the world's energy mix has become economically unjustified."

The OAPEC editorial singled out safety, ecology and cost as key "interrelated factors" behind the trend away from coal and nuclear energy.

The editorial said that nations promoting reduced dependence

on oil have "underestimated costs of changing systems."

Costs are a major factor in nuclear energy development, the Bulletin noted.

It pointed out that Sweden has decided to scrap its nuclear power plants over the next two decades, while the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and France are slowing down their nuclear energy programmes.

"The price of oil, on the other hand, dropped 50 per cent in less than five years without substantially affecting the short-term capacity to supply oil," it stated. "No other commodity is endowed with so much intrinsic flexibility."

OAPEC noted that the relative price advantage of oil and natural gas "will probably inhibit any dramatic growth in the share of alternatives for the next 10 to 15 years."

But the Bulletin said that "dramatic shifts" to oil and gas were not expected since "overall demand will continue to be modified by the effects of higher efficiency in fuel consumption and energy conservation."

Inflation shoots up to 290% in Yugoslavia

BELGRADE (R) — Prime Minister-Designate Ante Markovic's task of reviving Yugoslavia's crisis-ridden economy grew more daunting Monday as official figures showed annual inflation rocketed to 290 per cent last month.

The Federal Bureau of Statistics said prices soared by a monthly record of 39 percentage points from the 251 per cent inflation registered at the end of 1988.

Communist Party leader Stipe Suvar said last weekend that Yugoslavia faced "economic collapse and social explosion" unless it conquered inflation this year. Economists said January rises were highest in services, farm products and energy, and that they reflected the outgoing government's gradual scrapping of price controls.

The data will upset union bosses who are pressing for new steps to curb price rises and ease the burden on workers, whose living standards are the lowest in 20 years.

Yugoslavia had some 1,800 strikes in 1988, many with the collaboration of official unions.

Prime Minister Branko Mikulic, who last May imposed an austerity package, resigned Dec. 30 in a parliamentary showdown with regional leaders over his failure to slow the price spiral.

Markovic, named last month to replace Mikulic, has promised to deregulate the economy and keep prices free. He is assembling a reformist cabinet and is due to take office in early March.

The state presidency, the highest constitutional organ, has told him that his priority task is to beat inflation.

Markovic has said a key to economic revival is to inject foreign capital into the country's crippled industry under liberal investment laws, which will in turn help Yugoslavia meet its external debt obligations and improve the political climate to raise investor confidence.

Economists said Mikulic's recent easing of energy prices would spur another big surge in prices this month. Electricity tariffs went up by 48 per cent last week.

Markovic also faces a tough battle to sustain exports, according to figures quoted by Tanjug news agency last Thursday. They showed January exports falling 19 per cent from year-ago levels to \$423 million.

Exports in 1988 earned \$12.59 billion, a rise of 9.5 per cent from 1987.



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National Bank of Kuwait reports 16% profit rise

KUWAIT (R) — The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the country's largest, Sunday reported a 16 per cent jump in net profit in 1988, its biggest increase since 1985.

Bankers said the results reflected renewed strength in the local market as well as NBK's expansion outside the Gulf, where falling oil prices, the Iran-Iraq war and non-performing loans have hit bank profits in recent years.

"At the end of the '80s, we are reaping the rewards of the careful strategic planning which we initiated at the start of the decade," Chairman Mohammad Abdul Mohaimin Al Khorafi told reporters.

Net profits climbed to 30.9 million dinars (\$108 million) from

26.7 million dinars (\$93 million) while assets rose 15 per cent to 3.48 billion dinars (\$12.1 billion).

The bank said that in keeping with tradition, additional undisclosed profits were transferred to an inner reserve.

Khorafi announced a cash dividend of 22 fils per share, unchanged from 1987, and a bonus issue of 13 shares for every 100 held, up from 10 in 1987.

Bankers say NBK's conservative domestic lending policy and foreign assets helped shield it from the Gulf recession. Profits have grown during each of the past five years.

Unlike other Kuwait banks that required central bank assistance, NBK has been able to cover fully non-performing loans from its own resources, bankers said.

NBK has 50 domestic branches and full branches in New York, Singapore, London, Paris and Bahrain, and wholly owned investment management subsidiaries in London and Geneva.

East Germans offer to buy oil from UAE

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An East German official said Monday that his country was ready to import oil from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to promote bilateral ties even though they have no diplomatic relations.

"We prefer a balanced exchange of trade... and if our exports to the UAE expanded, we may balance that by importing oil from this country," said Claus Gaedt, the German Democratic Republic's deputy foreign trade minister.

He was attending the first East German trade fair which opened in Abu Dhabi Saturday, with more than 100 East German companies participating.

Gaedt said that establishing ties would facilitate the exchange of trade missions and improve trade relations.

"We're waiting for the UAE to take the initiative and expresses readiness to establish diplomatic relations," he said.

Gaedt noted that since East Germany established diplomatic relations with Kuwait in 1972, trade had increased fifteen-fold. Kuwait is the only Gulf Arab state to have diplomatic ties with East Germany and other Eastern Bloc countries.

It established relations with the Soviet Union 20 years ago. The UAE and Oman followed in 1985 and Qatar last year.

Trade between the UAE and East Germany is modest.

The UAE imported East German goods worth \$10 million last year.

German officials at the fair said last year's figures marked a 25 per cent increase over the previous year. They attributed that to the opening of an East German trade centre in Dubai.

East Germany imports oil from Iran and Iraq, in addition to long-term supplies from the Soviet Union of 17 million tons a year.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iran denies seeking foreign loans

NICOSIA (R) — Iran denied Monday reports that it was seeking \$3 billion in foreign loans but said it welcomed foreign participation in its reconstruction efforts. The New York Times Friday quoted Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as saying Iran had decided to borrow the money over the next five years to finance revenue-generating projects. The Iranian news agency IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati denied the report at a Tehran news conference. But he added that Iran welcomed involvement by foreign firms in economic reconstruction after the war with Iraq. "We hope to announce our decision on this subject later, after the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is clearly defined," Velayati said. Iranian leaders say hundreds of billions of dollars are needed to repair the damage caused by eight years of fighting in the Gulf war. Some favour borrowing, but others say this would bring unwanted foreign influence.

Cairo, IMF to hold more talks

CAIRO (R) — Egypt will hold another round of talks next month with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on an economic reform programme. Prime Minister Ataf Sedki said Sunday. Negotiations with a joint team from the IMF and the World Bank ended Friday without the agreement needed by Egypt to allow rescheduling of about \$4 billion of debt due between last July and next December. The Middle East News Agency quoted Sedki as saying the talks were "positive." He gave no details but said another joint delegation from the IMF and World Bank was expected in March. Egypt, burdened by a \$43 billion foreign debt, differs with the IMF on the pace of suggested reforms such as price hikes and an end to state subsidies on basic supplies. It fears they might lead to social troubles. The IMF also wants Cairo to raise domestic interest rates to increase savings. Egyptian officials have said they are considering a small increase of about two per cent. The maximum interest rate on deposits is currently 15 per cent.

Turkey initials Ankara metro contract

ANKARA (R) — A Canadian-led group initialled a contract Monday to construct the start of an Ankara metro system aimed at giving the polluted Turkish capital a face-lift. Ankara Mayor Mehmet Altinsoy said the contract, won by Canada's Urban Transport Development Corporation (UTDC) with Turkey's Gama and Guris companies, totalled \$428 million. The first 14-kilometre stage of the planned 54-kilometre metro is due to be completed by 1992. Canadian sources said ground-breaking was possible next month if a company set up between UTDC and Gama-Guris signed a formal contract with Ankara municipality under Turkey's build-operate-transfer system. The whole system, scheduled for completion in 2015, aims at easing road congestion, reducing vehicle exhaust pollution and shifting the city centre away from barren Anatolian mountains to allow more space for mass housing projects and industry. Finance for the first stage has not been finalised but industry sources said it would probably include a Canadian export-import bank credit and a syndicated loan raised by banks in Canada and Britain.

Iraqi oil minister criticises Norway

KUWAIT (AP) — Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi criticised Norway for taking a "passive" approach to cooperation with OPEC over reducing oil production in order to stabilise prices, the Kuwait daily Al Seyassah said Sunday. "Despite the positiveness with which Norway tries to characterise its stand in dealing with OPEC, its attitude is regrettably passive," Chalabi said in an interview. Chalabi said that Norway decided to reduce its maximum production capacity by 7.5 per cent in order to help OPEC's stabilisation effort. But he said that Norway effectively reneged on its decision by planning to hike output by 40 per cent in the first six months of 1989 because of new oil finds. The 7.5 per cent cut

amounted to 80,000 barrels a day in 1987, 90,000 barrels in 1988 and will reach 100,000 barrels a day during the first six months of 1989. But with the hike in output, Norway will be averaging 1.4 million barrels per day this year, up from an average 1.1 million last year. Chalabi expressed hope that the Norwegian government would "reconsider its stance." Al Seyassah reported.

Hyundai to invest in Soviet Union

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The Hyundai group will set up a 50-50 joint venture trading and development company with the Soviet Chamber of Commerce in April, Hyundai officials have said. The new company, initially capitalised at \$10 million, is being established under a letter of intent exchanged between the South Korean business conglomerate and the Soviet Chamber of Commerce. The proposed company, the first joint venture between the two countries, plans to build a coastal power station and develop petroleum gas and produce pulp in Siberia, among other projects, they said. The firm's head office will be in Seoul with a branch in Moscow, and Soviet directors for the joint venture will be stationed in Seoul, the Hyundai officials said. The proposed company also will handle imports of Soviet products such as lumber and industrial raw materials and exports of various Korean products to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Chamber of Commerce has agreed with the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp. to open trade offices in each other's capitals in two months to seek direct trade between the two countries.

Gulf Air expects \$20m profit

NICOSIA (R) — Gulf Air expects to have bounced back from two years of losses with a net profit in 1988 of 7.5 million Bahraini dinars (\$20 million). Gulf Air, owned by the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the emirate of Abu Dhabi, lost 2.8 million dinars (\$7.4 million) in 1987 and 1.3 million (\$3.5 million) in 1986, partly because of a regional recession. The Oman News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted airline chief Ibrahim Al Malki as saying in Muscat that the Bahrain-based airline planned to build a new headquarters. Speaking after a board meeting in Muscat, he said the capital of the Gulf aircraft maintenance company, owned 60 per cent by the emirate of Abu Dhabi and the rest by Gulf Air, would be doubled to 80 million UAE dirhams (\$21 million).

Swiss arms exports fall by 13%

BERNE (R) — Swiss arms exports fell 13 per cent in 1988 to 504.4 million francs (\$320.9 million) from 578.3 million francs (\$367.9 million) in 1987, the Federal Military Department has said. Nigeria was Switzerland's top customer, buying 105.8 million francs (\$67.3 million) worth, followed by West Germany with 79.7 million francs (\$50.7 million) and Saudi Arabia with 59.1 million francs (\$37.6 million). Austria bought 31.4 million francs of arms (\$19.8 million), Canada and the United States 27 million francs (\$17.2 million) each and Thailand 20.1 million francs (\$12.8 million). A 1972 Swiss law forbids the export of arms to countries engaged in armed conflict.

Nicaragua devalues cordoba again

MANAGUA (AP) — The government Sunday announced a 15 per cent fall in the value of the cordoba against the U.S. dollar. Nicaragua's third currency devaluation since Jan. 1. Government-run Voice of Nicaragua radio said the official exchange rate would go from 2,300 to the dollar to 2,700 to the dollar Monday. It said the Central Bank of Nicaragua approved the latest devaluation Sunday afternoon. A parallel exchange rate at which transactions such as paying hotels bill are carried out remained at 4,500. The cordoba has been going for between 5,200 and 5,300 to the dollar on the black market. At the beginning of the year, the exchange rate was 920 cordobas to the dollar. On Jan. 4, the central bank changed the rate to 2,000 to the dollar and on Jan. 25, it went to 2,300.

China austerity spawns black market in cash

PEKING (R) — Sales of safes are booming in China as businessmen hold onto their cash to avoid government controls.

Businessmen are breeding guard dogs to protect homes filled with cash that permits them to trade and lend in a booming cash black market that grew out of an austerity programme instituted five months ago, the official Economic Information newspaper has said.

In September China introduced tight curbs on credit, the issuance of cash and on how much cash enterprises were allowed to keep on their premises.

The newspaper said these rules had been widely ignored, with enterprises boarding cash to avoid the controls and using false receipts to conceal their transactions. It said the boom in safes and guard dogs followed from the

boarding.

A concern in Jiangsu sent a salesman carrying 1.2 million yuan (\$325,000) in cash to south-west China to buy silk-worm cocoons, another sent armed militia to escort its salesmen who were carrying tens of thousands of yuan to buy cotton.

One private businessman who was late in repaying a loan of 35,000 yuan (\$9,500) to a bank was found to have double that in cash in his house, the newspaper said.

Firms borrowed and lent the money among themselves, thwarting the government's attempt to control cash flow, it said.

These practices had led to a rash of robberies, a drop in bank savings in some cities and had "seriously affected" the normal circulation of money through the banks, it added.

Saatchi to market Western goods in USSR

LONDON (R) — Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertisers who "sold" Margaret Thatcher as prime minister to British voters, have been chosen to market the fruits of Western capitalism on Soviet television.

Saatchi advertising chairman Bill Muirhead said he would also welcome a deal to polish Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's image. "But I don't think he needs it at the moment," he added.

Public relations director Michael Parker said Saatchi had been employed to build up Western-style advertising in the state radio and television monopoly Gostelradio — an idea that would have shocked communist officials just 10 years ago.

At least initially, most of the advertising will be by Western firms, but Parker said Saatchi would also try to encourage Soviet enterprises to use the media.

"Up until very recently, the Soviet Union had no experience whatever of advertising... now the opportunities for television advertising are tremendous," he told a news conference.

"In the short term, companies can use television simply to establish their reputation, even before they do business. This will pay dividends in the long term," he added.

Saatchi and Saatchi helped pol-

ish up Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher's image in the 1979 political campaign that saw her first elected prime minister.

Western companies such as British Airways and Pepsi-Cola have already shown advertisements to Gostelradio's 180 million audience on an experimental basis.

Parker said Saatchi would advise Soviet authorities on how to handle advertising on its domestic radio and television as well as their world service, Radio Moscow.

The speed of expansion depended on Gorbachev's success in opening up Soviet markets to Western goods, he said.

Jane Tarassova, legal executive of Gostelradio, said Soviet audiences had viewed experiments in television advertising so far as "a form of entertainment."

Gorbachev's economic reforms have so far failed to bring any influx of Western quality consumer goods to Soviet shops. Some basic products have become even more scarce than they were five years ago.

Asked if she thought advertisements for Western goods and services might upset Soviet viewers, she replied: "Not at all... the response from people has been good."

Parker gave no details of cost

Malaysia counters charges on palm oil

NEW YORK (AP) — A Malaysian trade group has begun an advertising campaign in the United States aimed at countering what it calls the lies and "scare tactics" of competitors and health advocates who say palm oil leads to heart disease.

The Malaysian Oil Palm Growers' Council placed a full page advertisement headlined, "To The American People — The Facts About Palm Oil," in the New York Times.

"Initial scientific research has provided evidence that palm oil is healthy and nutritious," the ad said in part.

Malaysia's Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik announced last week that the palm oil producers in Malaysia had set up a \$3.69 million fund for a counterattack.

"Since we are the world's biggest producer and exporter of palm oil we cannot let this go unchallenged. We have to nail the lie," Lim said.

He said the campaign would include advertisements in U.S. newspapers refuting studies that found highly saturated tropical oils, like palm and coconut, increase blood cholesterol and lead

to heart disease.

Groups like the American Soybean Association and the National Heart Savers Association began an anti-palm oil campaign in 1987, and major U.S. food processors such as General Mills Inc., Kellogg Co. and Pillsbury Co. have responded with announcements that they no longer use tropical oils in their cookies, crackers and other products.

A delegation of Malaysian government officials, palm oil producers, exporters and scientists plans to present evidence from their own study rebutting the charges to the National Institute of Palm Oil Processors meeting in Tucson, Arizona, in March.

Malaysian exports account for 65 per cent of total world palm oil exports. The industry generates about \$2 billion in revenue, and more than 2 million of Malaysia's 17.5 million people depend directly or indirectly on it.

Lim said that although the United States is not a major buyer of palm oil, the anti-palm oil lobby had to be fought because other global buyers may begin to believe its claims.

IEA confirms OPEC's oil output reductions

LONDON (R) — The West's International Energy Agency (IEA) reckons that OPEC cut oil output by about 15 per cent in January in a new bid to put a floor under petroleum prices.

The Paris-based IEA's latest monthly report said that January crude oil output by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) averaged 19.4 million barrels daily.

That was down by 3.4 million from 22.8 million estimated for December. It was, however, above OPEC's self-imposed ceiling which was set at 18.5 million under a new agreement to curb excess supply which took effect from Jan. 1.

Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, made the biggest cut. It came down by more than two million barrels daily to 4.5 million. Kuwait cut by 500,000 to 1.1 million barrels daily.

But the United Arab Emirates was pumping above its OPEC-mandated quota. The IEA said it cut by 700,000 barrels daily to 1.5

million, but its quota is just under one million.

Excess supply by the United Arab Emirates was a big factor in a ruinous glut last year which sent oil prices sliding.

Another factor was Iraq's refusal to abide by OPEC rules until the ceasefire in its Gulf war with fellow member Iran.

OPEC's new output agreement, with Iraq back in the fold, has already succeeded in driving prices higher, even though the United Arab Emirates still seems to be overproducing.

North Sea Brent crude, a world marker, is trading just above \$16 a barrel having been down almost to \$11 before OPEC clinched its new pact in talks last November. Tokyo oil industry sources have reported that China's state oil firm, Sinochem, tentatively set a new price with its Japanese customers of \$16.10 for its Daqing crude, compared with \$12.84 in the final three months of 1988.

World prices, however, remain below OPEC's declared goal of an average around \$18 a barrel.

EC adopts new rules on microchips

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) has introduced strict new rules affecting access to EC markets for microchips in a move which diplomats said could intensify U.S. and Japanese charges of protectionism.

The EC's Executive Commission said in a statement Monday that the regulation "requires a crucial high-technology stage in the manufacture of microchips to take place in the Community for them to be considered 'made in the EC'."

The wafer-thin semi-conducting circuits are at the heart of computers and most modern electronic products.

Defining their origin is important because duty must be paid on non-EC microchips by anyone importing them as components for other goods.

The rules say that for a microchip to count as EC-made, a process known as diffusion must take place in the Community. Diffusion is the complicated and costly process of imprinting on paper-thin wafers of silicon the pattern of the micro-chip.

That would exclude microchips which are assembled in the Community from wafers diffused elsewhere, the procedure used by some, but not all, of the big U.S. Japanese manufacturers.

"It has been established that the diffusion stage is technically the most complex, the most difficult and that which requires the biggest investment in research," the commission said in its statement to justify the decision.

But Japan and the United States are already unhappy with what they see as protectionist tendencies within the Community, particularly its programme to become a giant single market by the end of 1992 and its tough stand against export "dumping."

The new microchip rules are relevant to anti-dumping cases because an exporter found to be dumping cut-price goods in the EC would not be able to count the microchips as local content if it switched production to inside the Community.

The ruling fits the EC's strategy of insisting that foreign investment in the Community should involve high-technology transfers rather than simply assembling components.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, Feb. 6, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	560.0	565.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	431.5	435.8
Pound Sterling	974.2	983.9	Dutch guilder	263.0	265.6
Deutschemark	297.6	300.6	Swedish crown	87.3	88.2
Swiss franc	350.7	354.2	Italian lire (for 100)	40.8	41.2
French franc	87.4	88.3	Belgian franc (for 10)	142.1	143.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

	1.7320/30	U.S. dollar
One Sterling	1.1830/40	Canadian dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.8845/55	Deutschemarks
	2.1270/85	Dutch guilders
	1.6010/17	Swiss francs
	39.48/52	Belgian francs
	6.4100/50	French francs
	1375/1376	Italian lire
	129.80/90	Japanese yen
	6.3850/3900	Swedish crowns
	6.7970/8020	Norwegian crowns
	7.3230/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	390.40/390.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Prices drifted lower amid concern about new economic figures, interest rates and soft metal prices. The All-Ordinaries Index fell 10.6 to 1,501.4.

TOKYO — Futures-related buying of financial and construction stocks pushed the Nikkei Index to a record closing high. It gained 142.97 to 31,828.75.

HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE — Markets closed for Chinese New Year holiday.

BOMBAY — Share prices rallied strongly in active trading for the new two-week accounting period beginning Monday, after carry-forward charges were fixed comparatively lower.

FRANKFURT — Shares moved sharply higher in thin trading, as foreign and domestic investors interested in the market found no supply. The Dax Index rose 18.68 to 1,345.04.

ZURICH — Prices closed steady with a firmer bias on very low turnover as uncertainty over interest rates continued to deter investors. The All-Share Swiss Index rose 2.3 to 961.5.

PARIS — Prices had reversed opening gains by midday on profit-taking but isolated stocks showed strong gains.

LONDON — Shares were following Wall Street lower in fairly sluggish afternoon business, having drifted for much of the day from recent strong rally. At 1557 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 25.1 to its low point of the day of 2,044.8.

NEW YORK — Blue chips continued to fall in mid-morning, with investors nervous about a possible federal reserve credit-tightening soon. The Dow was down 12 at 2,320.

Commonwealth committee meets in Harare

Mugabe, Clark blast Pretoria for apartheid, destabilisation

HARARE, Zimbabwe (Agencies) — President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe called Monday for tougher economic sanctions against neighbouring white-ruled South Africa.

He also urged U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to expand the U.N. peacekeeping force that will oversee the withdrawal of South African troops from Namibia.

Mugabe told foreign ministers from the eight-nation Commonwealth committee on South Africa that international economic sanctions aimed at ending apartheid needed to be intensified.

"Friends, allies and sympathisers of Pretoria must be told clearly that the Commonwealth will not allow this call to be suppressed by anyone, until South Africa is ready to dismantle her evil system," said Mugabe, who is also current chairman of the 101-member Non-Aligned Movement.

Mugabe was addressing the opening session of a three-day meeting of the Commonwealth committee seeking ways to increase external pressure on the government in South Africa and bolster black-ruled neighbours.

Several of South Africa's neighbours are members of the

48-member Commonwealth, a loose association of Britain and its former colonies.

The Zimbabwe leader applauded the U.S.-brokered peace plan that envisions independence in Namibia after U.N.-sponsored elections in November.

But Mugabe said African nations remain suspicious of South Africa.

"Any optimism this agreement may have generated must be tempered by anxiety about potential hurdles and land mines lying along the way," Mugabe said.

Mugabe has been critical of reduction of the strength of the Namibia peacekeeping force from 7,500 men to 4,650 to save costs. The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States — are responsible for 58 per cent of all peacekeeping costs and mandated the budget cut.

Mugabe said steps to weaken the United Nations' role in Namibia were "a negation of the letter and spirit of Resolution 435," the U.N. peace plan for Namibia.

"South Africa must never be allowed to manipulate the election processes directly or indirectly in her favour. All loopholes must therefore be closed to her," he said.

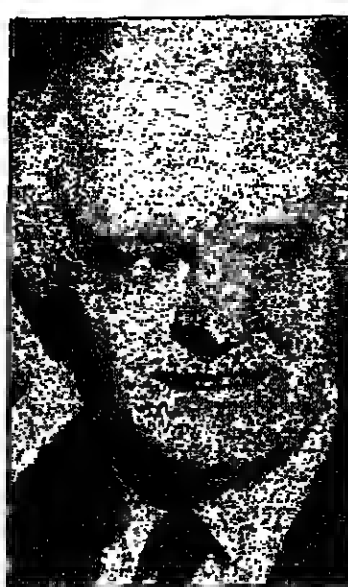
Joe Clark, external affairs minister of Canada, the chairman of the Commonwealth group, said the Harare meeting would examine the impact of South African military attacks and economic sabotage against its neighbours and the security needs of the frontline states.

Clark rejected the idea that South Africa's diplomatic compromise over Namibia might herald internal change.

"Much has happened since this committee last met in Toronto, some of it positive, some negative. The stark fact remains that none of the more positive developments reveals any change in South Africa's commitment to apartheid," Clark said.

Clark and Commonwealth Secretary-General Sir Shridath Ramphal said this week's meeting would focus on what they called South Africa's destabilisation of its neighbours.

"An independent Namibia does not mean the end of apartheid nor the end to South Africa's attempts to disrupt its neighbours," Clark said.



Edward Shevardnadze

Gorbachev-Deng summit will normalise ties — Shevardnadze

ISLAMABAD (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze said Monday the first Sino-Soviet summit meeting for 30 years would bring complete normality to relations between the two communist giants.

The summit between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping will be held in Peking from May 15 to 18, Shevardnadze confirmed.

"Now that the Sino-Soviet summit has been clearly marked on the political calendar this year, we can rightfully say it will mean a complete normalisation of relations between the Soviet Union

and China," he told a news conference in Islamabad.

"The summit will close the chapter on the past and chart a new course into the future," he said shortly before heading home from talks in Peking, long estranged from its communist neighbour, and Pakistan.

Shevardnadze said officials of the two countries were preparing a joint document "on the basis of the clearly defined principles of the new Sino-Soviet relations" to be signed in Peking by the two leaders. He gave no other details.

Shevardnadze also said the two sides had agreed during his talks in Peking last week on a docu-

ment on Kampuchea he said would show "the areas of agreement about how to tackle the crisis in the region."

He gave no details, but the official New China news agency Monday said the two sides agreed on the need for "an effective control mechanism" to supervise the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops.

The continued presence of Vietnamese troops in the country has been a major stumbling block to improved Sino-Soviet relations.

Vietnam has promised to withdraw its troops from Kampuchea by September, 1989.

15 million Hindus take their holy dip

ALLAHABAD, India (AP) — An estimated 15 million Hindus — holy men from their Himalayan cave homes, naked recluses from forest dens and ordinary pilgrims from across India — started immersing themselves at the confluence of two sacred rivers Monday.

The ceremonial bathing began at 4 a.m. Monday (2230 GMT Sunday) with the faithful blowing conch shells and chanting hymns. The pilgrims believe a dip in the rivers at the right time astrologically will free them from the Hindu cycle of reincarnation and allow them to achieve salvation.

Hindus believe that Lord Brahma, the creator of the world in Hindu mythology, and a member of the supreme trinity in the pantheon of Hindu gods, awakes at 4 a.m. and, so, the day should start at that hour.

Two people died in the early hours of the mass bathing. A 50-year-old man collapsed on the river bank after his hair and soon died, and a woman drowned when her boat capsized, according to a police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity. In 1954, about 800 pilgrims died in a stampede at the holy festival.

Monday's bathing is the high point of the seven-week Kumbh Mela Festival, which according to the Guinness Book of World Records is the largest religious gathering on earth.

The Kumbh Mela is celebrated every 12 years — by lunar calendar reckoning — when a rare planetary convergence takes

place: Jupiter is in the Taurus constellation, the sun and moon are in Capricorn, and a series of complicated calculations of Hindu astrology occur.

But Monday took an added significance, for it is also the day of the new moon, another good omen.

For the faithful, the bathing is often a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

"I planned this trip five years back when we had a good crop," Sarju Mahato said as he tended the blisters on his two sons' feet.

"We saved money and came here," added the farmer from Bihar state.

Ganesh Dasgupta, a railroad worker from Calcutta, brought his family of six to the festival. "I have got what I wanted. A bath here is equal to visiting all the pilgrim centres in the country," he said.

The festival takes its name, Kumbh Mela, from a story in Hindu mythology about a fight among gods and demons over a pot of nectar. "Kumbh" means pot, and "Mela" means fair in the Hindi language.

According to legend, the gods seized the nectar and it made them invincible in their war against the demons. But a drop of nectar from the gods' pot is thought to have fallen at Allahabad where the Ganges and Yamuna Rivers come together.

A bath at the exact spot where the nectar fell is supposed to bring salvation from the Hindu cycle of birth and rebirth.

Muscovites, Americans sense new era, says poll

NEW YORK (AP) — A U.S. Soviet public opinion poll has found good will among residents of Moscow and four U.S. cities, despite fears over their nations' longstanding rivalry.

Majorities in Moscow and in the U.S. cities saw the superpowers as friendly, the survey found, and more than eight in 10 agreed the two nations were entering "a new era of peace and cooperation."

At the same time, nearly four in 10 Muscovites saw the United States as a serious threat to their nation, and as many or more of the Americans saw the Soviets as a threat to the United States, the survey found.

The poll was sponsored by WCVB-TV Boston, the Detroit Free Press, the Daily News and WBSZ television and radio in New York, and KRON-TV in San Francisco. The poll was conducted by telephone Dec. 15-25 among approximately 1,000 adults each in Moscow and New York and about 600 each in Boston, Detroit and San Francisco. It had a three-point margin of error for the larger samples, four for the smaller ones. The results were published last week.

The survey measured social as well as political views, providing for comparisons of the beliefs and lifestyles of the Soviets and Americans in the cities where it was conducted.

Muscovites, for example, were considerably more confident in their government, with 37 per cent saying they always can trust it to do what's right. Just six per cent of the Americans said the same of their government.

But more of the Americans had great pride in their nationality. Depending on the city, about seven in 10 said they were very proud to be Americans. In Moscow, four in 10 were very proud to be Soviets.

The Americans were far more content with the goods and services available to them and more positive about their economy. More than half said their lives had improved in recent years, compared with 37 per cent of Muscovites.

Among other findings: — The Moscow residents socialised less frequently than the Americans and were far less likely to eat in restaurants or attend sporting events. Nearly half the Muscovites said they never exer-

cised; no more than a quarter of the Americans said that.

— The Muscovites were far more avid readers than the Americans, with 61 per cent saying they sat down to read a book almost daily. That was twice the number of daily readers, for example, in Boston.

— American respondents were more aware of several international figures. Nearly four in 10 of the Muscovites said they had never heard of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and a quarter said they had never heard of Pope John Paul II or Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran.

— At least two-thirds of the Americans said religion was important in their daily lives, compared with just 13 per cent of Muscovites. Eighty per cent or more of the Americans in each city believed in God, compared with 10 per cent of the Moscow residents.

Whatever their nations' differences, at least three-quarters of the Americans in each city said they had a generally favourable impression of the Soviet people. Similarly, eight in 10 Soviets thought well of Americans.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

18 die in Brazil jail riot

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Eighteen prisoners suffocated to death in an overcrowded jail cell into which inmates said police had pumped tear gas following a riot Sunday in a Sao Paulo police station. The 18 died after some 50 prisoners were jammed into a maximum security cell. All the victims were believed to have suffocated, a police officer said. "Because they (the prisoners) had destroyed the other cells, we had nowhere else to put them," the officer at the station said. The riot began when prisoners broke out of their cells in the police station. After police overpowered the rioters they were locked up in the maximum security cell for around 20 to 30 minutes. Press reports said the cell measured three by 1½ metres.

Botha could retire soon

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Newspapers Sunday said P.W. Botha, who stepped down as leader of South Africa's ruling party last week after suffering a stroke, could soon retire from the presidency. Botha, who suffered a stroke Jan. 18, Thursday resigned as head of the National Party and was replaced the same day by National Education Minister F.W. de Klerk, who is considered Botha's heir apparent as president. The Sunday Times, the country's largest paper, said in a front-page story that Botha's decision to step down as party chief "is a prelude to complete withdrawal from public life." Botha, 73, has said he will stay on as president, but he has appointed Constitutional Development Minister Chris Heunis as acting president while he recuperates. Doctors say Botha is recovering rapidly, but it will be at least another month before he can consider returning to work.

Pakistan blast kills three

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP) — No one has claimed responsibility for a weekend bomb explosion that ripped through a bus terminal in this southwestern Pakistani city, killing three people and injuring another five, police said Monday. Dawn, an English-language daily newspaper published in the southern port city of Karachi, said the three-kilogramme bomb also destroyed five buses. The casualty figure in Sunday morning's explosion could have been higher, but a bitter cold wind kept passengers inside the terminal building, the newspaper reported. Quetta, about 100 kilometres from the Afghan border, is surrounded by tent villages housing thousands of Afghans seeking refuge from 10 years of civil war in their country.

Jamaica's Seaga trails rival

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — A poll published Sunday suggests Conservative Prime Minister Edward Seaga badly trails his socialist rival, Michael Manley, in the final days of a campaign marred by violence that has left at least eight people dead. Seaga, one of the United States' closest allies in the Caribbean, is rated a 14-point underdog in his bid for an unprecedented third consecutive term in Thursday's election. A poll published Sunday by the Daily Gleaner, an independent Kingston newspaper, said Manley's left-leaning People's National Party will win a comfortable 36-seat majority in the 60-seat parliament.

German right wins votes

BONN, West Germany (AP) — The radical right-wing party that shocked the nation a week ago by winning 7.5 per cent of the vote in Berlin would poll 11.5 per cent nationwide if elections were held now, according to an opinion survey released Sunday. The poll results, reported by the weekly Welt am Sonntag (World on Sunday) newspaper, prompted the former Nazi SS soldier who heads the Republicans to predict his party will win seats in the European parliament in elections scheduled in June. While the Republicans are unlikely to draw broad public support, the ultra-right organisation's growing appeal demonstrates widespread discontent among West Germans. It also threatens further setbacks for Chancellor Helmut Kohl's centre-right Christian Democratic Union, which has lost ground in the last five state elections.

Hess photos hint at murder

LONDON (AP) — Photographs of the body of Rudolf Hess suggest that the 93-year-old deputy to Adolf Hitler may have been murdered at West Berlin's Spandau prison, the Observer newspaper reported Sunday. The liberal weekly said it had been shown the pictures, which were brought to London by Hess' son, Wolf Rudiger Hess. Hess met Friday with Scotland Yard detectives investigating suggestions that Hess did not commit suicide in 1987. The photographs were part of a report by Professor Wolfgang Spann of Munich who suggested that Hess died as a result of "deliberate strangulation rather than hanging," the paper said. The post-mortem by Professor James Cameron of London University gave the cause of Hess' death as suicide by hanging.

Sick Marcos stirs sympathy at home

MANILA (R) — Three years after his downfall, former President Ferdinand Marcos has stirred public sympathy for his return to the Philippines, but President Corason Aquino is keeping the doors closed.

Vice-President Salvador Laurel, once an arch Marcos foe and now leader of a campaign to bring the ailing ex-president back from Hawaii, warned Monday of civil strife if Aquino barred Marcos' return.

"That (public disorder) is what I am worried about," Laurel said in a nationwide radio interview. "We can avoid that if we bring Marcos back."

Laurel visited Marcos in Honolulu last week and said the deposed strongman was close to death and wanted to die in his country.

Aquino spurned Laurel's requests to see her to transmit a message from Marcos which Laurel said was secret and with "far-reaching consequences" for

the government and the nation. The campaign for Marcos' return has won the backing of several senators, including members of Aquino's ruling coalition, and senate opposition leader Juan Ponce Enrile, a former defence chief and a leader of the 1986 popular revolt that toppled Marcos.

"I don't think Mr. Marcos or his family would be thinking of violence at this stage considering his present condition," Enrile said.

Aquino aides dismiss Laurel's campaign as an attempt to boost his own political image and say Aquino remains firm in her stand that Marcos should first return the billions of dollars he allegedly looted from the country before he is allowed home.

A senior official said the government was likely to bar the entry of Marcos' body if he dies in exile because a Philippine burial could provoke violence.

Festivities in China mark year of snake

PEKING (AP) — Peking residents greeted the year of the snake early Monday with fewer firecrackers than past years, but didn't stint on the traditional feasting and drinking.

Stores were jammed over the weekend with people preparing for the Lunar New Year, which the communist government dubs spring festival in an effort to rid the holiday of its traditional superstitions.

The year of the snake is regarded as an unpredictable year because the snake is a cunning animal.

As the clock struck midnight Sunday, coloured rockets and sparklers burst from every street and lit up Peking's smoggy sky. The cacophony continued for about half an hour, but it was only a dim echo of the fireworks fusillades of the past, which used to go on for hours.

The government sharply cut back on the fireworks supply this year, allocating 30 per cent less to Peking, in an effort to reduce the number of fires and accidents. Peking also banned firecrackers from the city's central Tiananmen Square and hundreds of other public locations, while Shanghai banned them altogether from the downtown area.

The Lunar New Year is a major holiday in China, a time for visiting family, feasting, giving gifts and reflecting on the past year.

Last year, the year of the dragon, brought the highest inflation the country has seen in more than three decades, its worst drought in memory and the most deadly earthquake since the last dragon year.

Top officials, making the rounds of spring festival tea parties over the past few days, took the occasion to deliver pep talks about China's economic woes.

President Yang Shangkun, attending a party for 1,700 army officers in the eastern city of Nanjing, urged them to "join hands with the party, government and civilians in overcoming difficulties China has encountered in its ongoing reform."

Although the Sunday television news and newspapers commented on the activities of most top leaders, they did not mention senior leader Deng Xiaoping. Deng, 84, apparently spent the holiday quietly in Shanghai, where he was rumoured to be undergoing unspecified medical treatment.

Statues of rock legends

PORT ARTHUR, Texas (AP) — A sculptor is preparing to unveil life-size likenesses of rock legends Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. Richardson — also known as the "Big Bopper" — 30 years after they died in a plane crash. "It looks good," said Richardson III, the Bopper's son, said of photos he has seen of the sculpture, by local artist Don Clark. Richardson, 29, said other members of the Holly and Valens families were invited to the dedication Thursday night to get a first look at a sculpture of the Bopper, who sang the "Chantilly Lane" and "Peggy Sue" hits.

Richardson III said the sculpture was a tribute to the "three young men who were killed in the same plane crash." Clark said the work is intended to show the trio as if they were standing in the picture, just before boarding the fateful flight Feb. 3, 1959, from Clear Lake, Iowa, to Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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Bette Midler's conservative roots

NEW YORK (AP) — You'd never know it from her flamboyant stage act, but actress Bette Midler grew up in a home where conservatism was king. "My parents were two of the most conservative people you've ever seen in your life. They never went to a movie. And we didn't get a TV set until 1957 or a phone until 1962," Midler recently told Parade Magazine. "My father was one of those boob-boobers — 'You'll never amount to a hill of beans.' Maybe it was reverse psychology, hoping against hope that I would amount to something, but it was pretty painful for a long time," said Midler, whose latest film is "Beaches." "He couldn't keep me down," said Midler. "I had too much inner belief. That came from my mother, who always said, 'Kid, you're going to be fine.'"

Princess Yasmin marries

NEW YORK (AP) — Princess Yasmin Aga Khan, daughter of actress Rita Hayworth, has married real estate broker Christopher Jeffries. The wedding, conducted by a judge Saturday at the bride's home, was the second for Mrs. Jeffries, whose father is the late Prince Aly Khan. Andrew Ali Aga Khan, Embiricos, the bride's three-year-old son from her previous marriage, was the ring bearer. Her previous marriage ended in divorce. Mrs. Jeffries, whose late mother suffered from Alzheimer's disease, is the vice chairwoman of the Alzheimer's Association and is the president of Alzheimer's Disease International. The bride's late grandfather was the Ismaili Muslim spiritual leader, the Aga Khan.

Frost is replaced

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12-year-old rapist held

DENVER (AP) — A 12-year-old boy accused of sexually assaulting a woman in her townhouse has been ordered held on \$1 million bond. Judge Robert Crew said he set the high bond Wednesday because of other cases pending against the youth, whose name was withheld due to his age. He previously was convicted of burglary and indecent exposure. The boy allegedly tied up a 28-year-old woman and raped her while free on a \$300 bond, which stemmed from an attack on another woman last summer. Detectives say he is the youngest rapist suspect they can recall. "We've never seen anything like this," police Sergeant B.J. Haze said. Since he must be charged as a juvenile, the maximum sentence, the youth could receive for all the charges is five years, court administrator Tim Turley said.

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NEW YORK (AP) — Princess Yasmin Aga Khan, daughter of actress Rita Hayworth, has married real estate broker Christopher Jeffries. The wedding, conducted by a judge Saturday at the bride's home, was the second for Mrs. Jeffries, whose father is the late Prince Aly Khan. Andrew Ali Aga Khan, Embiricos, the bride's three-year-old son from her previous marriage, was the ring bearer. Her previous marriage ended in divorce. Mrs. Jeffries, whose late mother suffered from Alzheimer's disease, is the vice chairwoman of the Alzheimer's Association and is the president of Alzheimer's Disease International. The bride's late grandfather was the Ismaili Muslim spiritual leader, the Aga Khan.

Frost is replaced

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A spokeswoman says David Frost will no longer anchor the new television tabloid show "Inside Edition," which has yet to attract strong ratings since its debut more than three weeks ago. Frost has gone on "special assignment" and will continue to conduct celebrity interviews "for however long it takes him to complete them," show spokeswoman Allison Kossow said last week. She says his profiles of boxer Mike Tyson and singers Latoya Jackson and Phil Collins were well received by viewers. The trade newspaper Daily Variety reported that the Emmy-winning English journalist had been replaced by substitute anchor Bill O'Reilly because Frost was not compatible with the show's low-hour format.